Finance OK'd first-class travel in 2017—Torres. PAGE 3
IPI denies USA Fanter's new allegations. PAGE 8

$1

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 235

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32 more positive cases

» No travel bubble tourists have tested positive so far—Villagomez

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A day after reporting a stunning 98 positive cases of COVID-19 in the CNMI last Tuesday, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced Wednesday that 32 more cases of COVID-19 were identified through surveillance testing on Nov. 23, bringing the CNMI's total to 604.

See 32 on Page 4

More local stimulus cards OK'd

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Finance Division of Revenue and Taxation has approved more CNMI stimulus cards, on the heels of the recent distribution of over 3,000 local stimulus cards

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said they do have more

See CARDS on Page 4

Our villages need our help

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By CATHERINE ATTAO-TOVES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Catherine Attao-Toves is a resident of Chalan Piao.

It is common to think that village beautification is a government or private sector function. However, as residents, we are the bigger number with helping hands. This is the reason I knew my family from Chalan Piao had to be part of the Marianas Village Pride Campaign.

Story on Page 15

TAGA plus
sports business lifestyle
NOV/DEC21 /JAN22
CAMPING ON MANAGAHA
M2 Fitness: Get fit, don't quit
NMC: Future voyages and unexplored horizons
Tales of a clueless housewife and a 'fishy' meal
Azriel Fatialofa: Fly like an eagle with Mamba Mentality
Something to give, something to gain: Volunteers of Saipan

LATEST TAGA PLUS

The latest issue of TAGA *Plus* (November-January) is now online (https://tagaplus.saipantribune.com/). Get some tips about camping on Mañagaha, the latest shenanigans of our clueless housewife, and how to react when someone criticizes your parenting, among other topics. This edition's cover photo is courtesy of commercial drone pilot, BJ Eddy (https://youtu.be/mydiGis7xwY)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:13pm, Nov. 25, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 85.1%

Days since last community transmission: 2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	33,469
Fully Vaccinated:	30,329
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,950
Fully Vaccinated:	4,762
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	975

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	19,137	9	19,146
Recovered	17,160	0	17,160
Active	1,714	9	1,723
Deaths	263	0	263

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	572	32	604
Traced via Travel Screening	266	0	266
Traced via Community Screening	306	32	338
Deaths	3	0	3

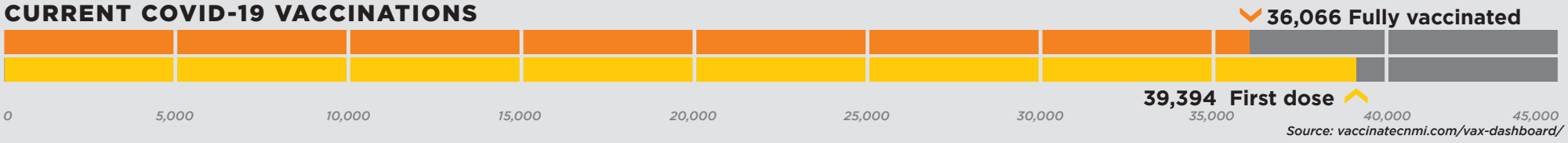
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL
Clients of Guma Esperanza were able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal, courtesy of NMTI.
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LOCAL
The Public School System is worried about the impact school closures have had on its students.
PAGE X

BUSINESS
Hole In The Wall has partnered with Mas Alto and Fuse Box for one-of-a-kind dishes.
PAGE X

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Local

'Small Biz Sundays' back on Nov. 28

Tyler's Gelatte Stone's "Small Business Sundays" at the Sugar King Park in Garapan is back, and will take place on Nov. 28 at the park from 3pm to 6pm. This will be the fourth-ever "Small Business Sunday" and Tyler's owner, Ben Babauta Jr., said Tuesday it will be the biggest one yet, with 10 vendors committing to be there.

Like the past three "Small Business Sundays," the Nov. 28 event will highlight local businesses and feature live musical performances. A portion of the revenue generated this Sunday will be donated to the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

A local business owner from Tinian will be participating this Sunday, Babauta said, and that NMCADSV and Mount Carmel School will each be conducting their own fundraisers at the park. Babauta hopes to see the community come out this Sunday as this is a great opportunity to support local businesses while also beating the pre-Christmas shopping rush.

In September this year, Tyler's Gelatte Stone held three "Small Business Sundays," with a portion of the revenue going toward the Autism Society of the CNMI. ***(Joshua Santos)***

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Finance OK'd first-class travel in 2017—Torres

» Finance denies governor's recent request to travel to Tinian to attend funeral

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said last week that his use of first class or business class travel for his and the first lady's official trip to several places in the U.S. mainland in 2017 had been approved by the Department of Finance.

During a news briefing last Friday when he was asked to comment on his 2017 trip, which the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee had issues with in its investigation of Torres' travels and expenditures, Torres said his request for that travel was processed and reviewed by Finance.

The governor said they turned in the agenda and other papers for that trip and Larrisa Larson, who was the then-Finance secretary, approved it.

"If they Finance) see it's proper, they sign it and they go through it. And if they don't see it proper, then they'll deny it," he said.

A recent JGO Committee hearing cited documents pertaining to Torres and first lady Diann T. Torres' trip from June 23, 2017, to July 2, 2017, from Saipan to Portland, Oregon; Kalispell, Montana; and Boise, Idaho. Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) said the first couple traveled first class and business class and that, according to the documents, the airfare alone cost the government more than $23,000, with ticket fare at $11,651 each. The governor and the first lady were accompanied by two personal security detail personnel in that trip.

according to Torres' travel authorization, the purpose of that trip was to meet with U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials in Oregon on the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument and to attend the 2017 Western Governors Association in Whitefish, Montana.

Torres disclosed that he sent a request letter to travel to Tinian two weeks ago in order to attend a funeral, but Finance denied it.

"That's fine. I'm not complaining," said Torres, noting that, according to Finance, it has to be a state funeral or any travel has to be an official travel.

The governor said he understands because Finance is only doing its work.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig confirmed at the same news briefing that they indeed denied Torres' request for such a travel. Atalig said he was not aware of it but learned that their staff was only doing their job.

He said regulations dictate that official travel for funerals must be for state funerals.

He said if the governor needed to attend a funeral, then that's considered a personal reason and not a government reason.

"So that was denied and I believe he [Torres] went ahead on his own accord," Atalig said.

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Hillbroom suit reaches settlement

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After over 10 years since the lawsuit was filed, the parties involved in the lawsuit filed by Junior Larry Hillbroom have agreed to a settlement.

According to the minutes following a status conference last Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy, Hillbroom, and the defendants are finalizing settlement discussions and are expected to submit a stipulated motion for dismissal on or before Dec. 2.

Due to the development in the case, Kennedy vacated all pending dates and deadlines and scheduled a status conference for Dec. 2 at 4pm

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona previously scheduled the jury trial for Dec. 7.

According to court documents, back in 2010, Hillbroom sued his former attorneys, David J. Lujan and Barry Israel, for legal malpractice, negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and violations of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

Israel and Lujan represented Hillbroom when he was a minor in securing $90 million from the Larry Lee Hillblom estate. When Hillbroom became an adult, he sued his former lawyers for malpractice as well as his former trustee, Keith Waibel, for conspiracy.

Hillbroom alleged that the defendants committed extrinsic fraud on the Guam guardianship court by denying him a fair opportunity to challenge their 56% retainer.

In July 2020, Hillbroom agreed to dismiss Israel from the lawsuit after a settlement agreement was reached.

Waibel, who represents himself in the lawsuit, has pending cross-claims against Lujan for indemnification.

Manglona previously denied Lujan's request to dismiss Waibel's cross-claims against him.

Hillbroom is one of four DNA-proven heirs of DHL Corp. founder Larry Lee Hillblom who died in a plane crash in 1995 near Saipan, leaving behind an estate estimated at about $600 million.

NMC accepting Framingham applications for spring 2022

Northern Marianas College is now accepting applications for a master of education degree with a concentration in International Teaching from Framingham State University.

Framingham State University, in partnership with International Education Programs Inc., a non-profit education organization in Massachusetts, has been offering graduate degree programs abroad for almost 30 years and has been offered at NMC for 20 years with more than 300 educators who graduated from the program locally.

The master of education degree with a concentration in International Teaching is a special program that was developed for teachers working in American and international schools abroad. The program consists of nine four-credit graduate courses in education (36 semester hours total), and the successful completion of a comprehensive portfolio. It is an online graduate program that is affordable and accredited. The most recent cohort of educators to undertake this degree program received their degrees in May this year.

School superintendents, principals, special education directors, and school counselors are among the experienced cadre of instructors utilized in these specialized courses. Framingham State University is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The new cohort for the master of education degree program is set to begin in the spring semester of 2022 meeting the minimum enrollment. Spring 2022 courses will be held online for all of Framingham International sites, including Saipan.

For more information on the admissions process, email cdi@marianas.edu. The master of education degree program application deadline is Dec. 10, 2021. For students interested in financial aid, the deadline to apply for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is Dec. 1, 2021. The deadline for CNMI Scholarship Graduate Student Loan Program is Dec. 15, 2021.

Seating is limited for this upcoming cohort, so those interested are advised to register now. ***(PR)***

$715K OK'd for UOG research into aquifer, coral reef health

This November, University of Guam will start a $715,014 project that will use unmanned aerial systems, remote sensing, and NASA technology to closely examine the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, which supplies 90% of the island's drinking water, and produce critical data and tools for resource management.

Hånom Fresko yan Acho' Tåsi, which translates to "Freshwater and Coral," is a three-part project that will produce maps of coastal freshwater discharge, fine-tune variables needed to better estimate the aquifer's water supply, and look for relationships between that freshwater discharge and coral reef health.

The project will be funded by a grant recently awarded through a NASA EPSCoR Cooperative Agreement Notice. The UOG Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific and the Micronesian Area Research Center will co-lead the project with collaborators from local and federal agencies.

"Freshwater is the most basic requirement for the survival and prosperity of any community. And island communities must make do with what we can catch, store, and manage inside our own coastlines. Importing water via rivers or pipelines is not an option," said WERI director and chief hydrologist John Jenson, who is serving as co-science investigator for the project. "Water managers can use reliable estimates of coastal discharge to determine how much freshwater [remains and] can be sustainably pumped out of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer."

Eliana Walker, research associate with the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific at the University of Guam, prepares for a drone excursion.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The research team will incorporate NASA technologies and methods in gathering ridge-to-reef data and in modeling the hydrologic processes in karst and non-karst landscapes.

"Building on the work of the last two cooperative agreements with NASA, we are continuing to use UASes to expand our maps of aquifer discharge along the coast, to include the entire northern half of Guam," said associate professor Romina King, who leads the Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center at UOG and is serving as the other science investigator on the project. "Coupled with high-resolution coral reef maps using NASA fluid lensing techniques, this will allow us to investigate if that coastal discharge potentially plays a role in coral reef health."

A robust cyberinfrastructure hub will store, compute, and visualize the data collected from the aquifer along with complimentary data from partnering agencies. This database could be an important resource for ongoing and future research and water management decision support.

"This is an excellent example of how Guam can utilize NASA's research opportunities to produce impactful data to better manage our natural resources," said UOG associate professor Leslie Camacho Aquino, executive director of the NASA Guam EPSCoR program at the university and the administrative principal investigator for the award.

The grant award will also allow for science-based trainings for students and capacity-building with scientists and managers from other agencies, Aquino said.

"These efforts all point toward a more holistic approach in maintaining our aquifer and coastal ecosystems," she said. ***(UOG)***

CARDS

From Page 1

stimulus cards, but he does not have the number of those additional cards that have been approved. He did not say whether the cards have already arrived or not.

Atalig said those who are expecting to receive their local stimulus or even their tax refund but have not received it by now means there is an issue with their tax return. He said these affected individuals need to stop by the Taxpayer Assistance Office at the Division of Revenue and Tax, or they may also call the Revenue Tax Call Center at 664 1040.

"Everyday we're clearing and cleaning up errors in people's tax refunds," Atalig said.

As they clear those errors, these taxpayers are added to the batch of those still pending to be batched out so that taxpayers can get their refunds and their stimulus cards.

Last month, Atalig disclosed that a total of 3,221 stimulus cards that arrived and were subsequently distributed were worth in total of $1,886,500.

Most of those cards were for the zero income filers who were required to file their 2020 tax return.

Eligible individuals received $500 per stimulus card and $500 for each dependent.

Last August, Atalig disclosed that they have already distributed over 20,000 stimulus cards, but they are aware that there are still some who have not gotten their cards yet.

Finance had earlier stated that they expect to release $25 million in all for 28,000 local stimulus cards using American Rescue Plan Act money.

32

From Page 1

CHCC said all 32 individuals have been isolated and are being actively monitored. CHCC also reported that, as of Nov. 24, there are 210 active cases and two active hospitalizations.

Of the 32 new cases, 20 were identified through community-based testing and 12 through contact tracing. By vaccination status, 19 are fully vaccinated, eight are unvaccinated, three are partially vaccinated, and two are ineligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Regarding testing efforts, CHCC reported that 622 tests were conducted on Nov. 23 and made a correction to Nov. 22's testing numbers, reporting that 463 tests were conducted on Nov. 22.

Since Oct. 28 there have been 313 new cases. Of the 313, 144 were identified through contact tracing, 158 through CBT, and 11 through travel testing.

Before Tuesday's announcement of 98 new cases, the CNMI has been posting single-digit increases in its number of COVID-19, trickling in at one or two.

In related news, Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren F. Villagomez said Tuesday that no tourists taking part in the South Korea-CNMI travel bubble have tested positive for COVID-19 so far.

"The Korean travelers have been very safely coming into the CNMI, [and] we are doing everything as protocol [such as] pre-arrival swabbing [before flying to] the CNMI," said Villagomez during a virtual news briefing that was also attended by CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña, regional epidemiologist Stephanie Kern-Allely, and the governor's authorized representative Patrick Guerrero.

The travel bubble agreement was signed and made official by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Vice Minister Seong-Kyu Hwang of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea on June 30 this year.

One provision of the agreement requires travelers from South Korea to the CNMI and vice versa to complete vaccination against COVID-19 at least 14 days ahead of departure with vaccines approved and provided by their respective governments.

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Thanksgiving meals benefit Karidat's Guma Esperanza

Northern Marianas Technical Institute staff, NMTI culinary program students, representatives from Karidat Social Services, Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), leftmost, and others come together for a group photo on Tuesday after NMTI's culinary program donated Thanksgiving meals to Karidat and its domestic violence shelter, Guma Esperanza. Picture includes Karidat Social Services director Lauri Ogumoro, NMTI culinary instructors chefs Ben Babauta Jr. and Inas Hocog, and NMTI chief executive officer Jodina Attao.

JOSHUA SANTOS

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Clients of Guma Esperanza, the domestic violence center being run by Karidat Social Services in the CNMI, were able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal yesterday, courtesy of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

NMTI's culinary arts program prepared and donated the Thanksgiving meals to Karidat last Tuesday and the spread included large pans of mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, stuffing, homemade cranberry sauce, and turkeys courtesy of Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan).

Lauri Ogumoro, who is director of both Karidat and Guma Esperanza, said Tuesday that she had received a call from NMTI saying that they wanted to donate Thanksgiving meals to Karidat and its Guma Esperanza. She said that she, Karidat, and Guma Esperanza were "touched beyond belief."

"It was really touching that they wanted to do that for the women and children at the shelter. We are touched beyond belief, and we're so thankful that they thought of us. …It's moments like this that we're grateful to such a wonderful community that thinks of the less fortunate," she said.

Staffler said that NMTI had also reached out to her and she was more than happy to contribute to the cause. "I'm always happy to find [ways] to help great organizations like Karidat and to find a way to give families another source of cheer and support in these hard times and in this holiday season," she said.

Chef Ben Babauta Jr., who is NMTI's student activities coordinator and culinary instructor, said the Thanksgiving donation was a collective effort that involved him, fellow culinary instructor chef Inas Hocog, and seven culinary students.

Babauta also said that, as student activities coordinator, one of his goals is to showcase NMTI students while also giving them opportunities to give back to the community.

With the culinary students currently learning about vegetables, starches, and protein, donating Thanksgiving meals to Karidat and Guma Esperanza was a great opportunity for all involved.

"We're teaching [our culinary arts students] vegetables, starches, and protein, and because it's the season of giving, [this was] a great opportunity for us to showcase what our students have learned [and] to give back to the community," said Babauta.

He added that it relatively did not take too long to make all the food, thanks to "good teamwork." It took an hour and a half of prep work on Monday night and two and a half hours of cooking on Tuesday.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la'i Taotao Tåno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its monthly meeting on Dec. 2, 2021, Thursday from 12:30pm to 3:30pm on a virtual link: hV09GQhttps://us02web.zoom.us/j/83383874666?pwd=dXRaVnJYblRmQytuY2tzSkVT09. Contact Flo Landry at (671) 475-0139 for special accommodations, link and agenda. ***(PR)***

SHEFA application submission deadline

Deadline to submit spring 2022 application only for new and returning applicants for Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is on Dec. 1, 2021 (Wednesday). No need to submit an application if you are an ongoing recipient. ***(PR)***

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For more Information

Pursuant to the Stipulated Judgment in Commonwealth Ports Authority v. Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc., Civ. No. 18-0498, notice is given of the auction of the vessel owned by Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc., to be sold at auction by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Risk of loss remains with Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc. until the winning bidder's bid is approved by the Commonwealth Superior Court after which time the winning bidder shall assume ownership and responsibility for the vessel. By submitting a bid and if accepted, the winning bidder agrees to accept full risk and responsibility of the vessel once approved by the Commonwealth Superior Court, including compliance with CNMI and Federal/USCG laws and regulations.

Please contact Commonwealth Ports Authority counsel, Robert T. Torres at (670) 234-7859/234-5750. Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com. **Minimum bid for the Puti'on Twin Hull is $75,000.00** Any bid(s) less than the minimum bid will be rejected. Bid submissions will be closed at 4 pm on **December 9, 2021**. Bid(s) opening shall be at 4:30 p.m. on **December 10, 2021**. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all offer(s). A "Puti'on Twin Hull" bid form can be obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority, through its Counsel at Robert T. Torres Law Office, Chalan Kiya P.O. Box 503758 CK Saipan, MP 96950.

Bid Instructions

- This is a private auction/bidding on behalf of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidding is conducted through the Law Office of Robert T. Torres using a written/sealed bid process. However, the Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all offers including any offer not determined to be commercially reasonable. Bids may be submitted to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya, Saipan.
- The Puti'on Twin Hull is offered for bid and sale "As Is" and without any warranty or guarantee as to fitness for use and each bidder is on notice to research this specialized and particular unit as a twin hull motor craft and the conditions in which it may be used in the CNMI or in other locations.
- All sales shall be paid by Cash or Cashier's Check within three (3) calendar days of notice to the winning bidder. Personal checks/company checks are not accepted.
- If a bid is accepted, the winning bidder shall tender the full amount upon notice and take shall be responsible for the removal of the vessel withing three (3) calendar days. Otherwise, the next highest bidder shall be considered. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel the bid and resell/re-auction the unit.
- Inspection: Any person wishing to inspect the Puti'on Twin Hull may contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to request for inspection at least two (2) days prior to inspection.
- All bids are final.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-007

MANNED SECURITY GUARD SERVICES FOR CUC FACILITIES ON SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security Guard Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of $200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-22-007*, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on November 29, 2021**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on November 24 , 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC Power Generation Manager at email richard.cano@cucgov.org and John Mafnas, CUC Contracts officer via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Technician, Senior at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

IPI denies USA Fanter's new allegations

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has denied USA Fanter Corp. Ltd.'s allegations that it breached another contract and has asked the court to dismiss the case with prejudice.

IPI, through its lawyer, Joey P. San Nicolas, has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss with prejudice the lawsuit that USA Fanter filed last month. Dismissal with prejudice means the plaintiffs would not be able to refile their suit.

"Defendant is without sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations," San Nicolas said.

San Nicolas

In his filing, San Nicolas asked that USA Fanter will take nothing from the lawsuit and that it be made to pay for the costs of the suit and other fees.

USA Fanter, through Colin Thompson, filed the breach of contract lawsuit against IPI last October. The lawsuit alleges that IPI failed to pay a construction staging lease agreement and construction contract that involved quarry products and heavy equipment rentals.

IPI allegedly owes USA Fanter $61,600 for unpaid property rent, $87,772.55 for the unpaid change order work, $15,462 for unpaid quarry materials, and $61,292.50 for unpaid heavy equipment rentals—for a total of $226,127.05, not factoring in late fees.

In the complaint, Thompson is asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to award USA Fanter general compensatory and consequential damages, the $226,127.05 owed pursuant to the invoices, oral contracts, and delivery slips, and attorneys fees.

According to the lawsuit, on or about Dec. 15, 2015, IPI had leased property owned by USA Fanter by the execution of a staging lease agreement from Feb. 22, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2018. IPI allegedly agreed to pay plaintiff rent on or before the 25th day of each month. Thompson said IPI did make some payments to USA Fanter on a month-to-month basis for its occupancy of the property. However, when IPI transitioned into a holdover occupancy of the property after the lease agreement ended, the monthly payments were reduced to only $5,600 per month.

Thompson said the last payment IPI made to USA Fanter for its holdover occupancy of the portion of the property was for July 2019.

The lawyer said USA Fanter served IPI with invoices for the amounts outstanding for the occupancy and use of the property but IPI has not responded to these invoices or demands for payment.

Meanwhile, Thompson said USA Fanter and IPI also executed a written construction contract for construction of off-site improvements that was beyond the scope of their previous construction contract.

On Nov. 20, 2018, plaintiff submitted to IPI a change order proposal detailing the cost breakdown of the additional work, which totaled $87,772.55. On March 28, 2019, IPI sent USA Fanter a signed letter agreeing to the change order and agreeing to pay plaintiff $87,772.55 upon completion of the change order work. On July of 2019, USA Fanter completed all of the work pursuant to the change order but IPI allegedly refused to make the $87,772.55 payment.

As for the complaint regarding the nonpayment of ordered quarry products and heavy equipment rental, Thompson said IPI ordered that USA Fanter procure and deliver quarry products to defendant on different occasions and that they'd pay for the products.

IPI allegedly failed to pay these orders and rentals that totaled $61,292.50.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will be a Financial Affairs Committee Meeting on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan.

AGENDA

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (November 19, 2021)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business: None.
IV. New Business:
1. Litigation report by Legal Counsel.
V. Executive Session
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

Written testimony on the agenda items may be submitted via email to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

Ramon A. Tebuteb
Financial Affairs Chair

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PSS worries about impact of school closures

» Pangelinan says school campus is one of the safest places for kids

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System is worried about the impact school closures have had and will continue to have on its students, staff, and the CNMI community, according to Dr. Bonnie Pangelinan, who is the PSS associate commissioner for Student and Support Services.

In her presentation before the House of Representatives Committee on Education Monday, Pangelinan said that the past year and a half of school closures have been marked by several phases of interrupted learning.

"The gap that we see is even greater with our disadvantaged students. That there is some trouble validating and measuring growth," she said.

Pangelinan was making the presentation to provide the Education Committee, chaired by Rep. Leila C. Staffler (D-Saipan), with updates on the planned resumption of in-person classes at PSS. The Board of Education had voted to resume in-person classes at PSS on Nov. 29.

Pangelinan said since they don't have students on campus, assessing their performance and growth becomes even harder, and even more critical for high school seniors who are on their way to college.

She said school is one of the places where they can guarantee a meal for most students so nutrition also suffers, with negative impacts extending to the lack of physical outlets and disconnection with teachers, students, peers, and caring adults on the school campus.

As for mental health concerns, she said their mental health referrals for the year alone have almost doubled the number they had last year.

Pangelinan said they know that even with the social isolation that the students are experiencing, for the most vulnerable students who might be in situations where they are in danger, that issue is something that the school counselors and their partners in advocacy areas are worried about.

She said COVID-19 and community spread are at the forefront of PSS minds.

"Somehow we have created this illusion that closing schools means keeping our kids safer when, in fact, the school campus is one of the safest place kids can be," she pointed out.

She said they can control the students' behavior in schools and control the safety measures in school campuses—which is not something they can do outside campuses, and that they do not control what happens outside schools.

"So we're worried that during this time that schools are closed, and kids come back and we do another screening, we'll see even more [COVID-19] cases," Pangelinan said.

She also shared the three prongs that they use to determine how to open schools. At the very initial stages, they always look at the community vulnerability level, she said, because it tells them what the community spread might be, and how it might impact the student population.

"We know that even now it is still green. And so that tells us that our kids and our faculty and staff are safe," Pangelinan said.

She said they also use the school readiness measures to determine whether or not, or how they're going to open schools. "Do we have the infrastructure in place to provide safety for students and staff? Do we have the staff that is needed not just for the classrooms but on campus to provide monitoring?" she asked.

Lastly, if they have the resources to implement safety measures. "Do we have PPEs (Personal Protective Equipment)? Do we have the funding to support revamping the classrooms, putting extra safety precautions in place?" Pangelinan asked.

They are also guided by the governor's executive orders. "We look at the CVL [and] we measure it against the rate in the CVL, and then we determine from there whether or not we're going to open schools in cohorts, whether or not we're going to implement extra safety precautions," she said.

Pangelinan said extra safety precautions might look something like static cohorting—when students are in one classroom the whole day and do not transition to other classes and their meals are brought to them. In that way, if there is a need for contact tracing, it is a lot easier, she said.

She said schools retains the option to open via remote learning in hybrid situations or using learning packets, which they did the very first time they closed schools.

Court set to hear Jeju Air's request to dismiss wrongful death suit

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI is set to hear Jeju Airline's motion to dismiss the wrongful death suit filed against it in December.

According to an order from District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona, she will hear Jeju Air's motion for dismissal on Dec. 29, at 1:30pm.

Jeju Airlines asked the court in a recent motion to dismiss the wrongful death lawsuit filed against it by a woman whose mother allegedly died because she wasn't allowed to board a flight to South Korea, thus missing her medical appointment.

Last week, Jeju Airlines, through David Banes, asked the District Court for the NMI to rule in its favor and dismiss the wrongful death lawsuit complaint in its entirety or, alternatively, issue a judgment limiting its liability.

In response to the lawsuit, Banes said the alleged damages were not proximately caused by any conduct on the part of Jeju Air or any person or entity for whom Jeju Air is responsible.

"Plaintiff's damages, if any, were caused and brought about by an intervening and superseding cause and were not caused by Jeju or any person or entity for whom Jeju is responsible," he said.

Banes added that the plaintiff failed to mitigate her damages and therefore is barred from recovering any such damages from Jeju Airlines.

"Jeju did not owe or breach any duty to plaintiff as alleged in the complaint and, therefore, plaintiff is barred from recovering any damages from Jeju," Banes said.

He added that plaintiff's alleged injuries were caused by the negligence or culpable conduct of plaintiff and/or her mother and, accordingly, the damages recoverable by plaintiff must be reduced in proportion to the negligence or culpable conduct of plaintiff and/or her mother.

"Plaintiff assumed the risk that her mother would not be successfully treated on time in Korea when she and her mother refused to seek alternate transportation to Korea or explore the possibility of successful treatment elsewhere," the lawyer said.

Banes said Jeju affirmatively denies it is at fault in any way with respect to the claims alleged or as to the issues raised in the complaint, and therefore is not liable to plaintiff for any damages alleged in the complaint.

Mari Chung Cepeda, the only child of Korea citizen and U.S. permanent resident Tae Hyang Bang, first sued Jeju Airlines in May 2021 in Superior Court but later moved the lawsuit to the District Court for the NMI in June 2021. She is represented by William Fitzgerald.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-018

Opening Date: November 15, 2021
Closing Date: November 26, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	Meter Reader
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Billing & Collections
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, (plus Hazardous pay) Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	Three(3)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Required to work in the field obtaining utility meter readings for electric and water consumption meters, deep well or outflow meters and other similar devices and entering data in hand-held computers or devices.
- Perform work orders for customer service verifications and investigations. Reports findings and recommends solutions and updates customer accounts.
- Performs research on account discrepancies or unusual meter readings and consumption. Reports irregularities or reasons for fluctuations.
- Prepares reports of findings, deficiencies and recommendations to assist in investigations and billing resolutions as needed.
- Inspects, repairs, replaces or disconnects utility meters and equipment and services.
- Assigns routing numbers for customer locations.
- Monitors meters for damaged or unauthorized connections and tampering.
- Assist in reviewing cycles, work orders, and readings in preparation of bill processing.
- Assist in the processing and printing of customer bills and delivery of bills and notices.
- Assist other divisions with mapping projects, locations, and other requirements.
- Assist other divisions with mapping projects, locations, and other requirements.
- Operates and maintains use of government vehicles; conducts basic vehicle inspections to ensure they are in proper working order and recommends service and maintenance of vehicles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.
Skills in: Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 025

Opening Date: November 15, 2021
Closing Date: November 29, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	Warehouse Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	CFO/Warehouse
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$16,511.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee.

Duties:
- The Warehouse Assistant assists with physical inventories of stock, materials and supplies; takes material counts and/or verifies counts.
- Prepares, packs, and delivers materials and supplies; receives and responds to division and department material needs and requests.
- Loads and unloads materials and supplies; assists with offloading containers and materials; operates forklift as needed.
- Verifies quantities and quality of materials received; prepares receiving documents and reports; routes and delivers paperwork.
- Maintains order and in worksites and warehouse areas; stocks and restocks inventory materials in designated bin locations; may assist in determining whether materials are scrapped or salvaged.
- Prepares and issues materials for air, sea or postal delivery; reviews pick lists and verifies quantities and material accuracy.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Preparing, packing, issuing and delivering materials and supplies; Verifying material quantities and quality; Providing attention to detail; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:
- ○ Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

Physical Demands:
- ○ Occasional lifting of object; Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Another COVID Thanksgiving—sigh

Remember how depressing it was in late November 2020? Even after six months of living with strict stay-at-home orders, COVID-19 still lurked unseen in every corner of the world.

Next year, we told ourselves while shivering through the alfresco meal with our pandemic pods, Thanksgiving will be back to normal. Big time.

It was a reasonable expectation. After all, Pfizer and BioNTech had just submitted an application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for emergency-use authorization for the first vaccine against COVID-19, and a second one from Moderna wasn't far behind. Within a few weeks, health care workers would start getting the first of two shots, and vaccine manufacturers were ramping up production for the mass immunization campaign that would begin in early 2021. Back then, it wasn't a stretch to imagine that by November 2021, most of the people in the U.S. would be gratefully inoculated against this dreaded disease. (If only.)

It's understandable why so many Americans are treating this Thanksgiving as a return to normalcy—most of us are vaccinated, and new cases have been declining. About 20 million people are expected to travel by plane this week, according to the Transportation Security Administration. It's not a record, but it's about twice as many air passengers as last year.

But while 2021 is definitely an improvement over 2020, this pandemic is not over. We are heading into a second COVID Thanksgiving.

COVID-19 is still infecting and killing people, and cases have started rising across the nation, even as protection from vaccines received earlier this year is waning. Despite the best efforts of public health officials, less than 60% of the U.S. population has been fully vaccinated, leaving many millions unprotected. Kids under 5 can't be vaccinated yet, and millions of older children who are eligible for a shot haven't received one. Though they are less likely to get seriously ill than other age groups, thousands of children have been hospitalized, and hundreds have died. Things can get worse.

What this means for California is not clear. More than 91% of eligible adults in the state have had at least one shot, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday, and that's probably one of the reasons the case rate here is among the lowest in the nation. But that's not dispositive: Colorado has an overall inoculation rate similar to California's yet is seeing a surge in new COVID-19 cases.

The pandemic will end someday; they all do. But it will not happen this week. This year, health officials aren't telling people to hunker down at home. But they are asking that we continue to be careful, to wear masks around others and to test before visiting with vulnerable friends and family. It seems the least we can do to avoid another terrible winter.

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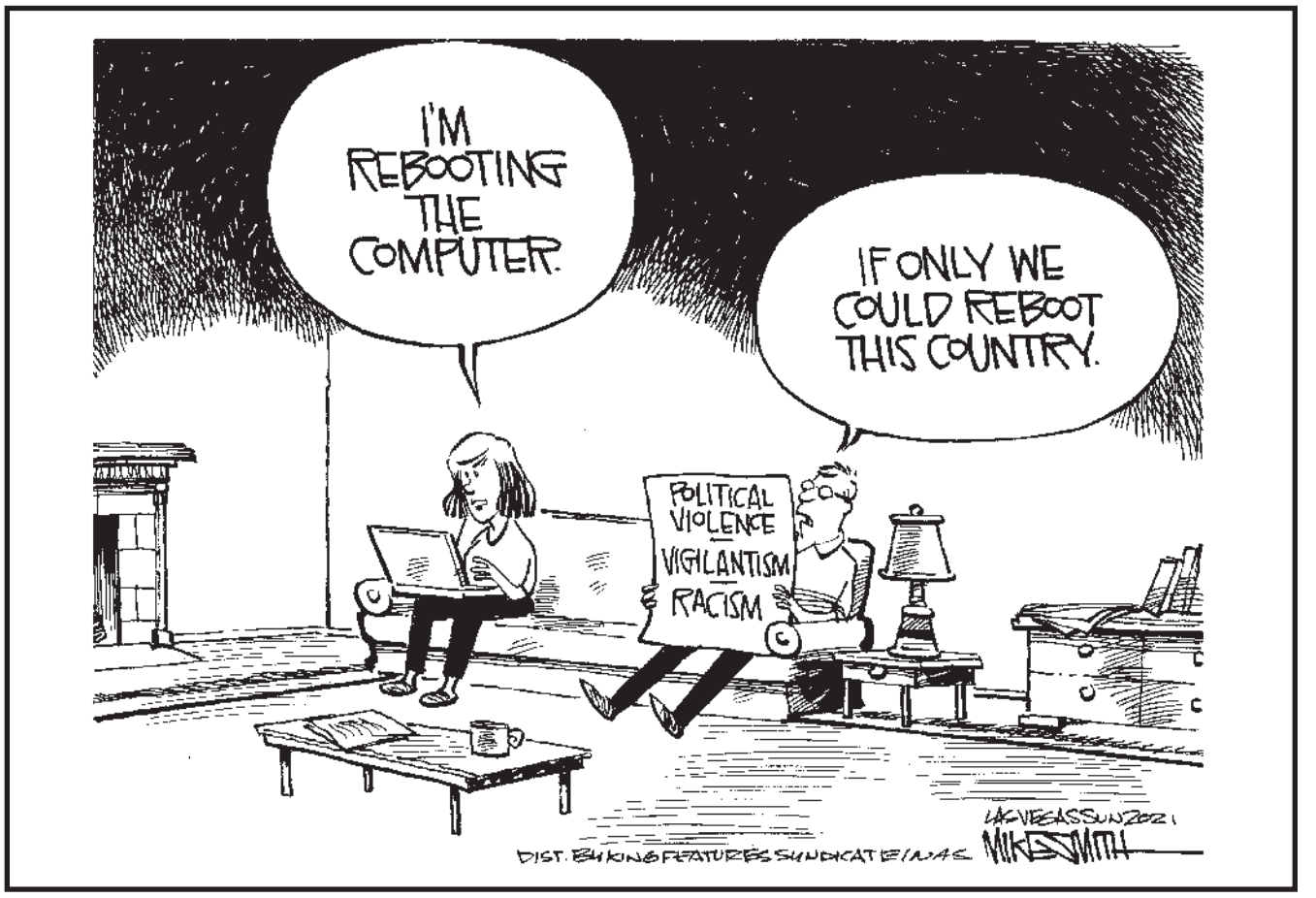


With inflation raging, Congress must end spending spree

By DAVID DITCH
The Heritage Foundation

David Ditch is a policy analyst in the Institute for Economic Freedom at The Heritage Foundation.

If you're worried about the direction of the nation, the state of the economy or the sharp rise of price inflation, you're not alone.

A recent Associated Press poll found 65 percent of Americans say economic conditions are poor. And a poll conducted by the Pew Research Center found that 93 percent of Americans are concerned or very concerned about inflation.

Sadly, it appears that too few members of Congress share that concern.

Inflation, a problem we associate with the dismal 1970s, has indeed come roaring back over the last year. Economy-wide prices have increased much faster than wage or economic growth, eating into household budgets.

In an environment where American families must be careful with their finances, it would make sense for legislators in Washington to do the same for the nation's finances. Yet we have seen just the opposite.

Congress has passed four major spending bills since the start of the pandemic and added a staggering $5.5 trillion to the national debt in the process. That's about $43,000 in new debt for every household in the country.

Much of that spending has been wasteful or opportunistic, such as bailouts for politically connected industries and unnecessary handouts to state governments.

Pushing so much extra money into the economy over such a short period of time certainly helped contribute to today's high inflation. With more dollars chasing the same number of goods, prices were bound to increase.

Amazingly, Washington's spending spree shows no sign of slowing down.

President Joe Biden just signed a $1.2 trillion infrastructure spending package into law. Nonpartisan analysts have shown that the bill will add hundreds of billions of dollars to the debt, even after the use of budget gimmicks such as repurposing stimulus funds that weren't going to be used.

Worse, much of the infrastructure spending will go to waste. For example, it heavily funds modes of transportation such as mass transit and Amtrak that only a small percentage of the country uses. This is happening at a time when trends like remote work and teleconferencing threaten to make transit and intercity rail even more irrelevant.

Coming on the heels of the $1.9 trillion "American Rescue Plan" from March, the infrastructure bill ought to be enough to satisfy even the biggest spenders on Capitol Hill.

It appears they're just getting warmed up.

Biden's massive spending package labeled "Build Back Better" has just passed the House and will move on to consideration in the Senate. The latest version of the bill contains over $2 trillion in spending and tax credits, and would add hundreds of billions to the debt.

More importantly, that cost is severely understated due to a heavy dose of gimmicks.

According to the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the real cost of the bill is closer to $5 trillion. That's because many key programs in the bill are only put in place for a short period, in some cases as little as a single year.

Since taxes in the bill are spread over 10 years, while the spending is front-loaded, the effect would be an enormous deficit increase at a time when the economy is already wracked by the biggest inflation spike in decades.

The White House has sought to deflect this criticism with threadbare talking points. One of these flimsy rebuttals is that the bill has "zero cost" if it doesn't add to the debt.

Setting aside that it would indeed add to the debt, this would be like emptying your retirement account to buy a Corvette and then claiming the car didn't cost anything because you paid for it.

More tellingly, administration officials have claimed that the bill wouldn't worsen inflation as long as it doesn't add to the debt.

However, what matters for today's inflation isn't whether the bill balances over a decade, but whether it balances over the next few years. Since it uses massive deficit spending in the first five years to artificially pump more money into the economy, that will put pressure on prices to increase even faster than they already are.

Federal finances were already in rough shape before the pandemic. Both parties have long ignored the problems facing major benefit programs like Social Security and Medicare, which are heading towards bankruptcy in the near future.

Rather than making inflation worse by creating new programs that are already bankrupt in advance, Congress should recognize the importance of responsible governance and start to live within their means.

That's what American families have to do every day. Washington shouldn't get a pass just because they have the privilege of using other people's money.

Our villages need our help

It is common to think that village beautification is a government or private sector function. However, as residents, we are the bigger number with helping hands. This is the reason I knew my family from Chalan Piao had to be part of the Marianas Village Pride Campaign. My husband Mark and I, along with the families of Chris and Natsu Concepcion, Joey and Eleanor Guerrero, and Sean and Kim White—Team Chalan Piao—signed up with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers under the Adopt-A-Median program.

The Adopt-A-Median program promotes safety for all motorists on the island and knowing that the Chalan Piao intersections are some of the busiest at the southern side, it was an easy decision to find out more on how we can rehabilitate this critical area. With help from GCEA's team assisting us with tools and materials, we successfully cleaned and repainted our adopted medians in two days. Now we are one step closer to achieving a safer Chalan Piao for our residents and visitors. Our next step is creating our very own "Welcome to Chalan Piao" sign that will help all visitors feel the welcoming spirit and easily navigate their way around the island.

Though we have initiated our cleanup efforts, we can't do it alone. As the saying goes, it takes a community to build a village, so we encourage and invite our village members to participate in the different projects we are planning: adopting and painting a square at the median, anti-litter signs for our shorelines and in the village, painting of our power poles and village-wide cleanups. We hope that through these efforts, and as we start to build relationships throughout our village, we can expand our efforts to develop a neighborhood watch or safety program.

We know that there is more work to be done around the island, but this effort starts in the village. This Public Private Partnership is so ideal that "together, we can" truly make a difference in improving our overall quality of life. Together, we can lend our helping hands to support the MVP campaign's mission to improve the quality of life for all residents by making our villages better places to live.

As we approach the holidays, let's continue to push village cleanups and make sure that we leave our beaches and public areas free of trash. I challenge all village members and business owners to take ownership of their respective villages and join us in keeping The Marianas clean!

Team Chalan Piao would like to extend our gratitude to all who have made the Marianas a better place. May your days be filled with family and friends, love, laughter, happiness, and great blessings to carry you throughout the holiday season!

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By CATHERINE ATTAO-TOVES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Catherine Attao-Toves is a proud resident of Chalan Piao. She and her family were instrumental in leading the village sign project, which will soon be a reality for all villages throughout the Marianas. Catherine is proof that one village resident can make a positive difference in our community.

POINT: Drawing the line between censorship and age-appropriateness

"You're for censorship! That's against the First Amendment!"

"Do you believe school libraries should carry Hustler?"

"No, of course not!"

"OK, so you're for 'censorship' too. Now we're just negotiating over where to draw the line."

A good friend (and staunch libertarian) uses this imagined dialogue to make an important point. Even those of us who consider ourselves near free-speech absolutists have to draw our lines somewhere. I've spent my entire adult life in two fields of work, journalism and education, which both have an immune response to censorship. But I'm increasingly sympathetic to the line drawers.

Candidly, I don't find perennial, unresolvable arguments over canonical works of literature all that compelling. We've had more than a century to decide whether or not "Huckleberry Finn" belongs in school libraries or English classes, so it's clear no resolution is at hand. Nor do I expect the next 100 years will settle whether "Beloved," "To Kill a Mockingbird," "The Catcher in the Rye" or other frequently challenged works belong on the curriculum.

The more challenging front in the censorship wars is over new and comparatively obscure works targeted at readers, from small children to young adults, which cannot claim canonical status. These new works are being published, promoted and defended on grounds of "authenticity and inclusivity." To question them — to draw a line — is to risk a charge of ignorance, bigotry or worse.

Publishers of young adult novels have been falling over one another in recent years to bring out controversial texts on themes of sexual abuse, racism, domestic violence, gang life, school shootings and other "realistic" subjects, in widely read books such "The Hate U Give," "Thirteen Reasons Why" and "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian."

Picture books for little kids are even more discomfiting. I'm old enough to remember the controversies that attended "Heather Has Two Mommies" (1989) or "And Tango Makes Three" (2005), which sought to normalize gay and lesbian family structures.

That normalizing impulse now goes to lengths that give pause on grounds of age appropriateness even to parents who think of themselves as progressive. "How Mamas Love Their Babies," for example, is described by Kirkus Reviews as an "amazingly inclusive" book, and the first to depict a sex-worker parent. An illustration shows a stripper in front of peep show with the text, "Some mamas dance all night in special shoes. It's hard work!" The School Library Journal recommends it for "strong consideration" for children in grades K-4.

SLJ also praised and recommended as a "first purchase for libraries" the picture book "What Are Your Words? A Book About Pronouns," which "models the ease with which our language can adapt to gender diversity and pronoun use." For toddlers, the familiar children's song "The Wheels on the Bus" has been rewritten as "The Hips on the Drag Queen Go Swish, Swish, Swish."

"Why is this kind of woke content being pushed so hard in children's books?" asked conservative cultural critic Bethany Mandel in a recent tweet about the above-mentioned picture books. "In short: Everyone in the pipeline is woke. Book agents, authors, publishers, marketing. Anyone who isn't is silenced. And who's buying it? Librarians and teachers. Also infested with wokeism."

She's not wrong, particularly about the increasingly harsh criticism heaped on those who question whether any of this (to use a phrase suddenly conspicuous in its absence) is age-appropriate. This confluence of impulses, the earnest desire to signal to children that everyone is OK and that anything goes makes conflict inevitable.

Instead, we must reaffirm that you're not a homophobe if you don't want your child exposed to an explicit illustration of oral sex as in the graphic novel "Gender Queer." Neither are you a closet white supremacist if you question the wisdom of exposing young children to the racially charged picture book "Not My Idea. A Book About Whiteness," which concludes, "Whiteness is a bad deal. It always was."

It just might be where you draw the line. And there's nothing wrong with doing so.

By ROBERT PONDISCIO
InsideSources.com

Robert Pondiscio is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, where he focuses on K–12 education, curriculum, teaching, school choice and charter schooling. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

Q: Should parents or other adults be able to ban books from public schools and libraries?

COUNTERPOINT: Parents cannot dictate what other parents' children can read

The American Library Association fully supports the right of every parent to control what their child reads and to select alternative reading or instructional materials for their child. We do not believe, however, that a parent's right to control their child's reading includes a right to restrict what other children read, or to limit the books that are available to young people in the library.

Our belief is rooted firmly in the First Amendment. Young people have First Amendment rights—not only the right to speak but the right to access and use the resources of the school or public library, free from any censorship that arises from disapproval of a book's content or views. Our courts of law—including the Supreme Court—have said that a decision by a school or library board to remove a book from its library because the board disapproves of the words, ideas or opinions contained in the book is a violation of a minor's First Amendment rights.

This principle applies even when it is a parent or group of parents demanding that elected or appointed officials censor books they find shocking or inappropriate because the books conflict with their moral, political or religious beliefs. While the First Amendment promises freedom of belief, and the right to express that belief, it does not guarantee a right to dictate to school boards or library boards what ideas or beliefs may be found in our publicly funded libraries. Publicly funded libraries are community institutions that must serve the interests and information needs of every child, every family and every individual in the community. By necessity, their collections must reflect the diversity of thought and values that exist in every community.

These are not easy issues to navigate, much less resolve, especially when books are viewed as a threat by parents and partisan activists because they challenge the assumptions they hold about their world.

Designating a broad range of books dealing with the lives of those who are gay, queer or transgender, or that tell the stories of persons who are Black, Indigenous or persons of color as inappropriate or worse not only inflicts trauma on vulnerable young persons and their families who are members of those groups, it also threatens our democratic values.

Librarians and library workers will be the first to acknowledge that not every book is right for every reader. But librarians and library workers will also be the first to tell you that censorship only succeeds in fostering the conditions that destroy our precious liberties—our freedom to read and think for ourselves, which belong to young people as well as adults.

Certainly parents should be able to direct their child's reading, and librarians and library workers are more than willing to assist parents in identifying books for their children that reflect their values. But librarians and library workers are also committed to defending their communities' right to read and to learn. Rather than teaching lessons in censorship, librarians and library workers strive to affirm the importance of the freedom to read and to demonstrate to young people that in this country they have the right and responsibility to think critically about what they read, rather than allowing others to do their thinking for them.

By DEBORAH CALDWELL-STONE
InsideSources.com

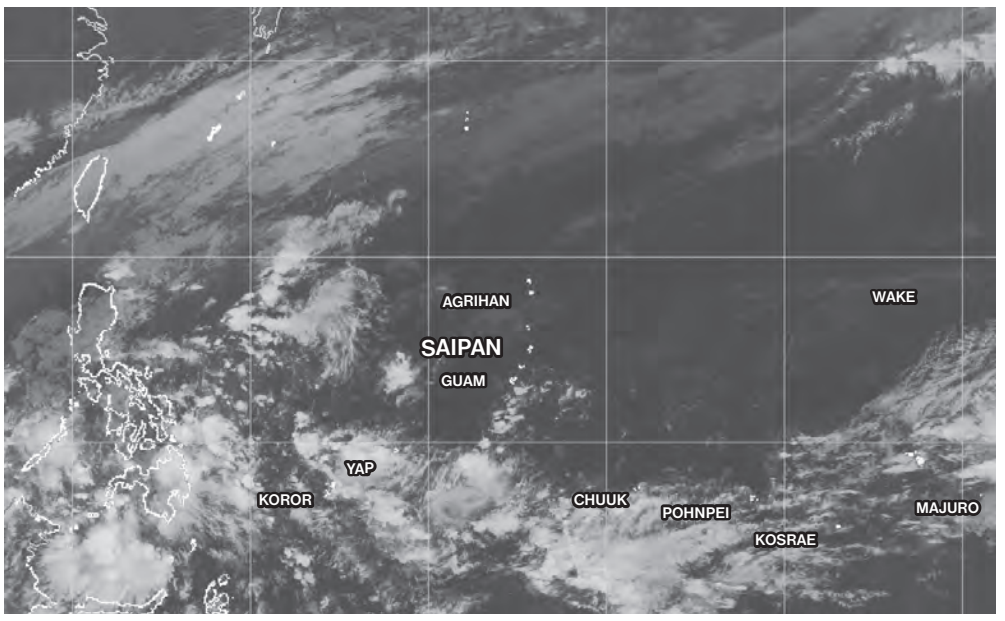
Deborah Caldwell-Stone is director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom at the American Library Association. She wrote this for InsideSources.com.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. Highs around 87.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
87° / 77°	87° / 78°	86° / 76°	86° / 76°	86° / 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:26 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East trade-winds and a few showers were over the Marianas this morning. Little will change as nice weather is expected for today through Saturday. A surface trough will bring wet weather by Sunday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:44 AM	11:23 PM
Saturday	-	12:26 PM	-
Sunday	12:15 AM	1:06 PM	-
Monday	1:08 AM	1:46 PM	-
Tuesday	2:01 AM	2:26 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 19°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 72°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 72°
London	Showers	48° / 37°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 61°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 71°
New York	Sunny	51° / 42°
Osaka	Sunny	63° / 52°
Paris	Showers	46° / 43°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	57° / 41°
Rome	Sunny	54° / 36°
Salem	Sunny	64° / 39°
San Francisco	Sunny	59° / 46°
Seoul	Cloudy	46° / 25°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Washington, DC	Sunny	53° / 38°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:50 AM	Low Tide	-0.14
1:47 PM	High Tide	1.62
7:41 PM	Low Tide	1.15
10:58 PM	High Tide	1.28

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4, 5
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Mas Alto, Fuse Box open at Hole In The Wall

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO

Hole In The Wall is located along Coffee Tree Mall besides Cristiano's near the American Memorial Park parking lot in Garapan.

MARK RABAGO

From left, Bayden Blake, Marley Partain, Izabela Guerrero, and Edgar and Eric Barajas make up the crew at Hole In The Wall's Fusion Box and Mas Alto.

For its initial offering, shared kitchen concept Hole In The Wall has partnered with chefs from Mas Alto and Fuse Box to bring exciting and one-of-a-kind dishes to the local palate.

Ran by brothers Edgar and Eric Barajas, Mas Alto whips up genuine Mexican fare, according to Hole In The Wall co-owner Clint Albert.

"It's very authentic Mexican food. We have a lot of restaurants that serve Americanized Mexican food or what they call Tex-Mex, but here it's really authentic Mexican food," he said.

Mas Alto's current menu is short but sweet, with *birria burritos* its runaway bestseller so far.

Edgar said that, contrary to popular belief, *birria* is actually not a type of meat, but is a style of cooking they do south of the border. "It's kind of like pulled pork and the hot sauce is the bomb," he said.

Mas Alto's burritos also come in *al pastor* or chorizo.

The guerilla kitchen also serves up one of the island's most flavorful *tortas*, or Mexican sub sandwiches, and it comes, you guessed right, in *birria*, al pastor, and chorizo. Desserts include churros (with chocolate dipping sauce) and *arroz con leche*, which is rice with sweet milk and raisins.

For drinks, Mas Alto offers up Jamaica, which is ice-cold team made from hibiscus, and horchata, which is a sweet cold drink made from rice milk and cinnamon.

"Edgar and Eric grew up in California but are of Mexican decent so they live and breathe Mexican food," said Albert.

Fuse Box, which Albert co-owns, like its name already suggests is a fusion kitchen and its chefs are Bayden Blake and Marley Partain.

"It's fusion food mainly derived from local, American, and Asian food. Everything we do we infuse Asian and we infuse local," he said.

Currently, its bestseller is the chicken teriyaki bao, which in itself is an amalgamation of Chinese, Japanese, and American styles of cooking preparation.

"For example, the bao itself is Chinese, who are famous for siopao, and then chicken teriyaki is basically almost like a Japanese dish and we infuse it with a little bit of American-style presentation. It's like a mini slider," he said.

Albert said the chicken teriyaki bao is pretty much how Fuse Box imagines all their dishes.

"Let's say the loco moco. We have loco moco everywhere on island but our take on it is we infuse it with our own ingredients just to make it a little bit local," he said.

Fuse Box is also launching ice cream floats this week and while they will serve traditional ones, they're also leaning toward offering ice cream floats with coconut in them instead of just plain vanilla.

Also in the menu are rice bowls like lechon *kawali* and *sisig* and chicken *karaage*, sushi that comes in five pieces, burgers (try the Fusebox Burger), pasta, and plenty of side dishes like salted egg wings, *karaage* fries, and chili bombs.

Mas Alto and Fusion Box is open from Monday to Saturday, 10am-2pm. They're also trying out a Friday afterhours concept today, 6:30pm-9:30pm, with only special items on the menu.

Albert said he couldn't ask for better start for Hole In The Wall. "Reception has been great. Business was bit slow on the first week but on the second week it sort of doubled and tripled right away."

While it has a small two-table el fresco setup, Albert said Hole In The Wall wasn't originally planned and organically turned that way.

"Hope people would support us, especially with all these COVID-19 cases. This is a perfect open space if you want to dine in," he said.

Hole In The Wall is located along Coffee Tree Mall besides Cristiano's near the American Memorial Park parking lot in Garapan. For orders and for more information, call (670) 286-0451 or go to their Facebook page (Hole In The Wall 670).

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 026

Opening Date: November 15, 2021
Closing Date: November 29, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant Lineperson**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power T & D**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Power T&D Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Division.

Duties:

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Servicing equipment by disassembling, assembling, cleaning and calibrating.
- Assisting with equipment/vehicle inspections.
- Servicing and preparing oil filters.
- Responding to customer calls.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:

- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 027

Opening Date: November 18, 2021
Closing Date: December 2, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant: Mechanic**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Three (3)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. The Trades Assistant: Mechanic assists with the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, incinerators, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.

Duties:

- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities.
- Monitoring Plant systems as assigned;
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment.
- Makes readings and collects data.
- Documents equipment readings.
- Prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily work activities.
- Assisting with equipment inspections, cleaning, corrosion control, and painting.
- Operating incinerators.
- Oil and water separator pump, servicing and preparing oil filters.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing debris and housekeeping.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Training and knowledge in operations repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities desired but not required.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work. Work in environments exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.
Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends and holidays, may be on call for emergency response.
All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

FSM's Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers named No. 1

COLONIA, Yap—Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers has been voted the No. 1 resort in the Pacific/Indian Ocean region in the value-for-money category in *Scuba Diving* magazine's annual readers' poll of the best destinations, dive resorts, dive operators and liveaboard vessels.

To give "a better idea of consistent winners regardless of recent travel restrictions," the 29-year-old publication averaged the scores from the 2020, 2021 and 2022 surveys to arrive at the current results to inspire divers "to get back in the water and visit someplace new."

Located on the island of Yap in the western Pacific Ocean, the small, family-owned luxury resort was also named among the Top 10 in eight additional categories including Best Overall Dive Operators, Quality of Dive Shop Facilities, Quality of Dive Staff, Attention to Safety within Dive Operations, Best Overall Resorts, Quality of the Resort, Quality of the Rooms and Quality of the Restaurant.

"Throughout our 35-year history we've been given multiple awards, but this year's recognition is a welcome shot in the arm," said the resort's owner, Bill Acker. "This year's results combining three consecutive years of surveying show that, together with our staff, my family and I manage to give our guests the experience, service and value they expect and are looking for."

Patricia Acker, Bill's wife and cofounder, said: "We were one of the first islands to close the borders and may be the last to reopen, but we'll be back stronger and better than before."

Operating since 1986 and serving only 1,000 divers a year, Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers is Micronesia's only premier dive resort offering guests crowd-free dive sites, VIP service, spa treatments, award-winning micro-brewed beer, and a unique dining experience aboard their 120-year-old schooner, The S/V *Mnuw*.

Go to *Scuba Diving* magazine or #scubadivingmagazine for details of this year's Best of Readers Choice Awards. For more information about Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers, visit www.mantaray.com or #mantaraybay. ***(PR)***

DROPOFF SITES

First Hawaiian Bank is an official 2021 "Toys for Tots" partner this holiday season. Community members who would like to donate toys to the "Toys for Tots" program can drop off their donation at the Oleai or Gualo Rai branches of FHB. The "Toys for Tots" program is a charitable initiative hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that provides toys to disadvantaged children during the Christmas holiday season. The program is spearheaded by the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Businesses who would like to participate in this program and host a toy collection box can email saipantoys4tots@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Maria Teresa Garcia Santos

Also known as " Tess " or "Tessang" was born on April 27, 1966 and was called to join her creator on Friday, November 19, 2021 at the age of 55.

She now joins her father †Francisco L. Garcia, her mother †Sofia M. Garcia and son †Christopher S. Santos.

She will be missed by her husband: Ramon Ch. Santos

Children:
Mary Grace G. Santos & Wilbur Inos; Margieray G. Santos; Almondo Franco G. Santos; Chayse S. & Jessica M. Santos (Chayse Raymond Jr., Janella Colleen, Kian James); Chasmyn S. Santos (Lucio Keikoa, David John, and Javiah Kiliko); †Christopher S. Santos (Ezel Karter)

Brothers, Sisters & In-laws:
†Angelo G. & †Francisca Garcia & children
†Leonila G. & †Apolonio & children
†Querubin G. & Benjamin De Jesus & children
Celerina S. & †Eduardo Suministrado & children
Adriano G. & Herminia Garcia & children
Aron G. & Tirsa Garcia & children
Aurelio G. & Carmelita Garcia & children
†Ariel G. & Margielyn Garcia & children
Juan B. & †Hacinta Quitugua & children
Nicolasa S. & †Gabriel Masga & children
Trinidad S. Manalo & children
Juan Joseph Ch. & †Barbara C. Santos & children
Almondo Ch. & Ana B. Santos & children
Linda S. & Vicente M. Babauta & children
Manuel Ch. & Aileen Santos & children

Additionally, she will be missed by numerous relatives, nephews, and friends.

Daily mass of intentions are being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00am and San Antonio Parish at 6:00pm. In addition, mass is also being offered at Kristo Rai Church, San Roque Church and Tanapag Church at 6:00pm. Funeral and memorial services will be held on Monday, November 29, 2021. Her remains will be escorted from Cabrera Center at 8:45am to Mount Carmel Cathedral for responso, holy rosary, viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Internment services will be held at Kagman Sanctuario Pax.

Please join us in our prayers.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Salamat Po, and Thank you very much.

Ramon, Children and Family

In Celebration of His New Life

†JUSTINO C. RAMON

In his new Life, He now joins his:

Parents:	†Blumel Ramon
	†Kebekol Ngirakelbid Alfonso
Mother-in-Law:	†Roberta Kesewaol Tudela
Brothers:	†Nauru Ramon
	†Fermin Kebekol
	†Nicholas Sabo Ramon
Brother-in-Law:	†Johannes Ngiraibuuch
Sister-in-Laws:	†Antonia K. Sablan
	†Johanna Desebel
	†Rita K. Tudela
	†Rose Giltner

His Spirit & Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife:	Laisang N. Ramon
Children:	Basalisa & Scott Miller
	Adriano & Paula Ramon & Children
	Paula Kesewaol & Mike Ngirarois & Children
	Donna Marie Ramon & Children
	Remedio Ramon & George Philsngog & Children
	Alfonso Ramon & Magdalena Marlic
Reared-Children:	Jayson Ramon
	Jessica Marie Ramon
	Richelle T. Ramon
	Rachelann Ramon
Siblings:	Carlos Ramon
	Estelita Jennings
	Selina Ramon
	Coreti Ramon

At 11:00 A.M. on Friday, November 26, 2021, his remains will be arriving from Guam and will be escorted to Cabrera Funeral Home.

On November 30, 2021, Tuesday at 7:30 A.M., his remains will be escorted to his residence in As Lito for viewing.

Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11:00 A.M. at St. Jude Parish followed by interment services at Kagman Cemetery.

Lunch will be served immediately at the Family's residence in As Lito.

Thank you, Sulang, yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From Laisang N. Ramon, Children, and Family

Life & Style

U2's Edge leading rock memorabilia sale to help musicians

NEW YORK (AP)—When The Edge saw the Rolling Stones perform recently, his mask allowed him to go unrecognized as he watched guitarist Ron Wood from the front row.

"I have to say one of the benefits of mask wearing is it's like a cloaking device if you're a famous face," the U2 guitarist recently told The Associated Press while promoting his Music Rising charity and its Dec. 11 auction of famous guitars and other rock memorabilia to support New Orleans musicians hit hard by the pandemic.

"Ronnie has donated a beautiful guitar to our auction. So, I was so stoked," he said.

Founded by Edge and producer Bob Ezrin, the charity was started in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina as a means of replacing instruments lost in the flood. Once the pandemic set in, it found a new mission.

The Edge

"We want to try and reestablish the live music scene where it's suffered a kind of major setback. So back in post-Katrina, we were replacing instruments. Now we're not being that specific. We're actually willing to just fund people's livelihoods," Edge said.

Two of Edge's guitars that he's played extensively on tour with U2 will be among those sold, including the instrument he calls the "One."

"It's a beautiful Les Paul and it's actually a music rising Les Paul, part of ... a limited edition of 300."

The other is a custom designed Fender Stratocaster used while on tour to perform "Bad" and "Still Haven't Found I'm Looking For."

"They are real serious guitars that I've spent a lot of time playing and they'll—they'll be missed."

Others donating guitars include Slash, Lou Reed, Steve Miller, and a bass from Paul McCartney. During the interview Edge held up a vintage photograph of McCartney playing the donated guitar in a studio while Stevie Wonder played the drums.

"This is two of my great heroes in the one shot and that bass guitar is going to be in the auction."

Erzin, who has produced a litany of classic rock artist from Alice Cooper and Aerosmith to Pink Floyd and Kiss. Each has donated memorabilia to the auction. But Erzin says guitarist Paul Stanley personally had to search for his donation.

"Paul Stanley going down to the warehouse to find the guitar because his guitar tech had passed away from COVID, as a matter of fact, and he had to go himself to go find the guitar that he wanted to give us," Erzin said.

Conviction overturned in 1981 rape of author Alice Sebold

By KAREN MATTHEWS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anthony Broadwater, center, gazes upward, Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, in Syracuse, N.Y., after Judge Gordon Cuffy overturned the 40-year-old rape conviction that wrongfully put him in state prison for Alice Sebold's rape. AP

A rape conviction at the center of a memoir by award-winning author Alice Sebold has been overturned because of what authorities determined were serious flaws with the 1982 prosecution and concerns the wrong man had been sent to jail.

Anthony Broadwater, who spent 16 years in prison, was cleared Monday by a judge of raping Sebold when she was a student at Syracuse University, an assault she wrote about in her 1999 memoir, "Lucky."

Broadwater shook with emotion, sobbing as his head fell into his hands, as the judge in Syracuse vacated his conviction at the request of prosecutors.

"I've been crying tears of joy and relief the last couple of days," Broadwater, 61, told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "I'm so elated, the cold can't even keep me cold."

Onondaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick told state Supreme Court Justice Gordon Cuffy at the court hearing that Broadwater's prosecution was an injustice, The Post-Standard of Syracuse reported.

"I'm not going to sully this proceeding by saying, 'I'm sorry.' That doesn't cut it," Fitzpatrick said. "This should never have happened."

Sebold, 58, wrote in "Lucky" of being raped as a first-year student at Syracuse in May 1981 and then spotting a Black man in the street months later that she was sure was her attacker.

"He was smiling as he approached. He recognized me. It was a stroll in the park to him; he had met an acquaintance on the street," wrote Sebold, who is white. "'Hey, girl,' he said. 'Don't I know you from somewhere?'"

She said she didn't respond: "I looked directly at him. Knew his face had been the face over me in the tunnel."

No phones, laptops allowed at Josh Duggar child porn trial

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)—A federal judge says no phones, laptops or recording devices will be allowed at next week's child pornography trial for former reality TV star Josh Duggar.

U.S. District Judge Timothy L. Brooks issued the order ahead of the trial, which is set to begin Tuesday in Fayetteville, the Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported.

Duggar, who appeared in TLC's "19 Kids and Counting," was charged in April with two counts of downloading and possessing child pornography.

Duggar, 33, faces up to 20 years in prison and fines of up to $250,000 on each count if convicted.

TLC pulled "19 Kids and Counting" in 2015 over revelations that Duggar had molested four of his sisters and a babysitter. Duggar's parents said he confessed to the fondling and apologized.

Duggar has also apologized for his pornography addiction and for cheating on his wife.

Meanwhile, his father, Jim Bob Duggar, has announced plans to run for a recently vacated state Senate seat. Jim Bob Duggar was also featured prominently on the TLC show and previously served in the Arkansas House.

The primary election in that race is Dec. 14.

Woman's sudden negativity worries her growing family

DEAR ABBY: I'm eight months pregnant with my first child. My usually happy and positive mother is becoming increasingly quick to become negative or angry. The change in her personality has my husband and me concerned about our little one growing up around her.

We don't want our child to assume these characteristics by imitating her grandmother. I can't imagine Mom not being around her first grandchild, and I know I'll need her help, but I can't bear the thought of our child mirroring these behaviors. How do we proceed?

FIRST-TIME MOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR MOM: You may be worried needlessly, but try to figure out what is going on with your Mom that would account for her recent personality change. Talk to her about it and raise your concerns. I say this because she may need to be examined by her doctor to determine if something is medically or neurologically wrong with her. If nothing is wrong, you and your husband may need to decide if you would be more comfortable limiting your mother's time with the baby and hiring someone to help you care for your child.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a musician—a bass guitar player. I've been playing for more than 50 years and have been told I'm very good. My problem is my neighbor. He plays guitar and writes songs, neither of which he does well.

From time to time, I'll help him out by laying down the bass track for his songs. But lately he has begun referring to me as "my bass player." I don't WANT to be his bass player. I get no enjoyment from playing with him.

I try my best to avoid him now because he constantly asks me to play. Most of the time, I give him some lame excuse to avoid it. Is there any way I can get out of playing without telling him how I feel about his music?

NOT HIS BASS PLAYER

DEAR NOT HIS BASS: You could tell him that your schedule is so full you don't have time to do it, you have "other commitments" or you are concentrating on your own music these days. However, if those excuses don't work, I guarantee that telling him the whole truth will.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I have been having food wars with our parents ever since we started dating. Because of our lack of money, we can't move out of our parents' houses yet. My parents fight or yell at me for wanting to eat the kind of food we want to eat. My fiance's mother wants us to never buy our own food and to eat hamburgers and hot dogs every night. She even goes through the trash and yells at my fiance about spending money on food when it's his own money he is spending. How can we keep the peace? So far, we have been eating in the car like nomads.

WHAT'S EATING US IN OHIO

DEAR WHAT'S EATING: Tolerating your parents' behavior is the price you and your fiance are paying for roofs over your heads until the two of you can save enough for a place of your own. Until that happens, you may have to bide your time and continue "eating in the car like nomads." (I hope you are both eating as healthfully as you can.)

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

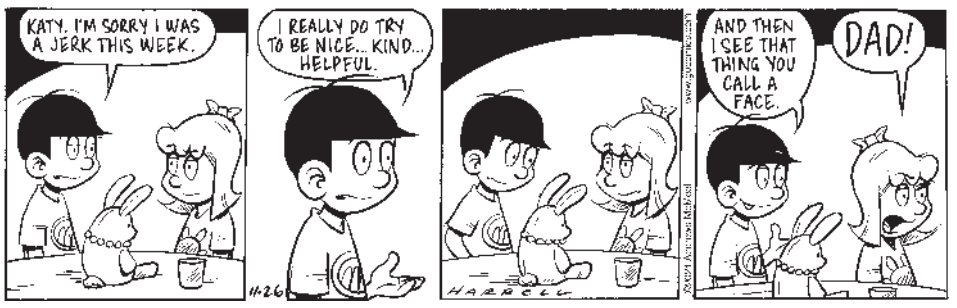
I'VE DECIDED I WANT TO BE A MILLIONAIRE WHEN I GROW UP.
WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK PRETTY HARD TO GET A MILLION DOLLARS.
NO, I WON'T. YOU WILL.
ME?
I JUST WANT TO INHERIT IT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

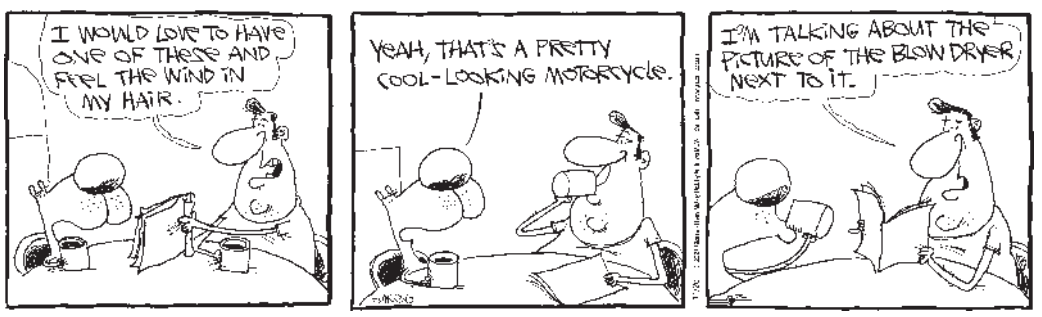
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE ONE OF THESE AND FEEL THE WIND IN MY HAIR.
YEAH, THAT'S A PRETTY COOL-LOOKING MOTORCYCLE.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE PICTURE OF THE BLOW DRYER NEXT TO IT.

CROSSWORD

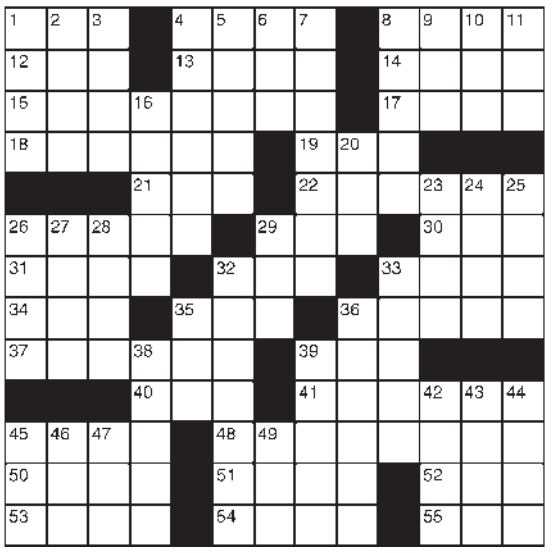
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Blond shade
4 Rocky outcrop
8 Gunk
12 — Beta Kappa
13 Seized wheels
14 Leak slowly
15 Zero refinement
17 Stir up
18 Veer
19 Droop
21 Granola grain
22 Wedding parties?
26 Influence
29 Tibetan bovine
30 Conceit
31 Intimate
32 Garden area
33 Wound cover
34 Soul, to Sartre
35 Napkin's place
36 Short jackets
37 Act charitably
39 Sheep call
40 Train alternative
41 Cornell's home
45 South Pacific nation
48 Remorseful words
50 Nantes notion
51 Mutt's warning
52 401(k) alternative
53 Oodles
54 Inquisitive
55 Quarterback Brady

DOWN
1 LAPD alerts
2 "Pygmalion" writer
3 Conceal
4 Necktie
5 Bowling-lane button
6 Suitable
7 Spoils
8 Welsh pooch
9 Kanga's kid
10 Submachine gun
11 Singer Lana — Rey
16 Lake denizen
20 Noah's vessel
23 1920s art style
24 "Manhattan Beach" author Jennifer
25 Weeps
26 Ballot dangler
27 Prom rental
28 Blood type, for short
29 "Uh-huh"
32 Troubling omen
33 Lesley of "60 Minutes"
35 Brock of baseball
36 Bistro, for one
38 Theater awards
39 Coffin stands
42 Slightly
43 Italian "dear"
44 Leading man?
45 In shape
46 Wedding words
47 Actress Aniston, to friends
49 To and —

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Facinelli, 48; Garcelle Beauvais, 55; Tina Turner, 82; Rich Little, 83.

Happy Birthday: Put negativity and anger aside; learn to enjoy what life has to offer. Set goals, and get involved in something that fuels your interest and prompts you to engage in projects with people who make you think outside the box. Put long-term plans in motion, and make lifestyle changes that encourage greater freedom to do as you please. Your numbers are 4, 15, 22, 29, 34, 37, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't put your health or reputation at risk. Surround yourself with people you can trust, and search for outlets that will help ease stress and give you a moment to reorganize your thoughts and plans. Don't act in haste; think. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll face opposition that will leave you in a compromising position. Take a step back, re-evaluate your situation and redirect your energy toward personal growth, honing your skills and calculating the best way to get what you want. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Play to win. Put everything you've got into getting ahead. Focus on the best way to win a challenge or outdo the competition. Go over and above what it takes to reach your goal and outshine anyone trying to outmatch you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Avoid making an emotional purchase. Debate how much you need what you want to buy. Channel your energy into something more creative or unique that doesn't put a dent in your wallet. Plan a freewheeling day with someone you love. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Listen to your heart, and do what comes naturally. A disciplined attitude will help you sum up what you need to accomplish to reach your expectations. Networking functions will give you a chance to convince others to see your vision. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Refuse to let someone dictate how you move forward. Look at your options, and make adjustments that allow you to veer off in a direction that excites you. Avoid senseless battles and people who try to interfere in your life. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Call someone you can count on, and you'll figure out how to resolve a problem. You will have to put in the time and energy to gain stability in your personal life. Choose discipline over indulgent behavior. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let your emotions take over and ruin your day. Set your sights on a creative project or something that challenges you to make personal improvements. Refuse to allow personal and professional problems to spill over into one another. Distance yourself from trouble. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Tidy up loose ends, and move on to pastimes that bring you in touch with people you enjoy being around. Take pride in what you do, and you'll attract people who encourage you to pursue the goals that offer the most excellent satisfaction. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Think big, but budget wisely. Put in the time and energy required to succeed. A change someone makes will challenge you to step up and do your part. Take a unique approach to the way you handle responsibilities. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Refuse to let someone make decisions for you. Stand up for yourself and your rights. Say no to anyone trying to challenge you or take charge. Be smart by focusing on using your skills to benefit yourself. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You don't need to explain yourself. Do whatever it takes to get things done on time and within budget. Know your limitations and your strengths, and use your resources and intuition to help you deal with inconsistency and confusion. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are informative, determined and pioneering. You are imaginative and optimistic.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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✪ ***star:*** *Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes.* ✪✪ ***stars:*** *You can accomplish, but don't rely on others.* ✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Focus and you'll reach your goals.* ✪✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Aim high; start new projects.* ✪✪✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9		2		8		1	
4						6		3
							8	
3				2				7
			9	6	7			
8				5				6
	1							
2		5						4
	8		1		4		5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	2	6	7	8	1	4	5
6	1	5	9	3	4	8	2	7
8	7	4	2	5	1	3	6	9
4	8	7	5	1	9	6	3	2
5	2	3	4	8	6	7	9	1
1	6	9	3	2	7	4	5	8
3	4	1	8	9	5	2	7	6
7	5	6	1	4	2	9	8	3
2	9	8	7	6	3	5	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE BALANCE OF CHAKRA Solution: 6 letters

M	T	Y	T	I	L	I	B	A	T	S	F	E	E	L
S	E	I	G	R	O	U	N	D	E	D	E	C	M	P
S	E	D	R	G	V	C	O	S	M	I	C	A	A	H
U	L	C	I	K	E	P	S	D	I	A	E	E	J	Y
R	A	D	U	T	S	N	L	A	N	R	N	P	O	S
V	N	L	O	R	A	N	G	E	D	N	E	T	R	I
I	O	R	I	G	I	T	A	B	X	V	W	D	R	C
V	I	O	R	G	H	T	I	S	I	U	I	O	S	A
A	T	O	S	T	N	W	Y	O	G	A	S	P	I	L
L	O	T	L	P	O	M	L	E	N	D	D	E	K	O
E	M	A	E	L	I	E	E	E	F	R	O	N	I	M
E	E	U	L	B	T	N	W	N	R	A	M	L	E	B
H	N	E	E	R	G	T	E	O	T	C	S	G	R	A
W	Y	S	A	C	R	A	L	T	L	R	A	L	O	S
C	R	Y	S	T	A	L	S	S	Y	F	O	R	C	E

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Alignment, Base, Beads, Blue, Card, Cosmic, Crystals, Dream, Emotional, Feel, Flow, Force, Green, Grounded, Health, Indigo, Love, Major, Mantra, Meditation, Mental, Mind, Minor, Oils, Open, Orange, Organs, Peace, Physical, Plexus, Reds, Reiki, Root, Sacral, Safe, Sanskrit, Security, Solar, Spine, Stability, Stone, Survival, Violet, Wheel, Wisdom, Yellow, Yoga

Yesterday's Answer: Floats

Purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 50 through 65** in time for the holidays! Order online at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Suns hold off Cavaliers 120-115 for 14th straight victory

CLEVELAND (AP)— Devin Booker scored 35 points, Chris Paul had 12 assists and made four free throws in the final 8.8 seconds and the Phoenix Suns extended their winning streak to 14 games, holding off the Cleveland Cavaliers 120-115 on Wednesday night.

Phoenix's run started with a victory over Cleveland on Oct. 30, coming after a 1-3 opening for the defending Western Conference champions. The Suns have been perfect since and improved the NBA's best road record to 7-1.

Paul finished with 17 points, and JaVale McGee added 13 points and 12 rebounds in 20 minutes off the bench.

Phoenix's winning streak is the third-longest in club history, matching a 14-gamer by the club in 1992. The Suns won 17 straight during the 2006-07 season.

The young Cavs gave the Suns everything they could handle, and if not for Paul, a couple calls that could have gone either way and Cleveland's Ricky Rubio missing three free throws in the final seconds, the streak might have ended.

Jarrett Allen had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and Cedi Osman added 23 points for Cleveland. The Cavs have lost five in a row.

Phoenix Suns' Devin Booker (1) drives on Cleveland Cavaliers' Jarrett Allen (31) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021, in Cleveland. AP

Lakers 124, Pacers 116, OT

In Indianapolis, LeBron James made the tiebreaking 3-pointer in overtime and followed with a backbreaking 3 in his return from the first suspension of his career to help Los Angeles beat Indiana.

James finished with 39 points on 13-of-29 shooting and had six assists and five rebounds, with the Lakers playing without Anthony Davis because of flu-like symptoms.

On Sunday night in a victory at Detroit, James was ejected from for striking Pistons center Isaiah Stewart in the face and drawing blood. The NBA suspended him a game and he sat out the Lakers' loss at New York on Tuesday night.

Malcolm Brogdon led Indiana with 28 points.

Nets 123, Celtics 104

In Boston, Kevin Durant scored 21 points to pass Allen Iverson and move into the top 25 on the NBA's career scoring list, and Brooklyn beat Boston.

Patty Mills added 23 points, and James Harden had 20 points and 11 assists for Brooklyn, which has won four in a row, seven out of eight and 12 of its last 14 games. LaMarcus Aldridge had 17 points and nine rebounds.

Marcus Smart had 20 points and eight assists for Boston.

Bucks 114, Pistons 93

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points, Bobby Portis added 28 and defending champion Milwaukee beat Detroit for its fifth straight victory.

Milwaukee has won 12 in a row against Detroit, dating to 2018. That is tied for the third-longest current winning streak by one NBA team over another.

Jrue Holiday added 22 points for the Bucks. Trey Lyles had 19 points and seven rebounds for Detroit.

Rockets 118, Bulls 113

In Houston, Danuel House Jr. had 18 points, Christian Wood added 16 points and 10 rebounds and Houston beat Chicago to end its losing streak at 15.

Kevin Porter Jr. had 14 points, six rebounds and nine assists after missing three games because of a bruised left thigh. Second overall pick Jalen Green scored 11 points in the first quarter before exiting with a left leg injury.

Houston improved to 2-16. It shot 50% from the field and made 17 of 36 on 3-pointers, going 8 of 11 from behind the arc in the third quarter.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 28 points.

Jazz 110, Thunder 104

In Oklahoma City, Donovan Mitchell scored six straight points in the final minute and Utah held off Oklahoma City.

Mitchell had a rough shooting night before the final surge, hitting just four of his first 14 shots. He finished with 13 points.

Jordan Clarkson scored 20 points off the bench to lead Utah. Mike Conley added 18 points, and Rudy Gobert had 15 points and 17 rebounds.

Lu Dort led the Thunder with 27 points, hitting five 3-pointers.

Timberwolves 113, Heat 101

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards had 33 points and 14 rebounds and led Minnesota's 3-point spree in the second half, as the Timberwolves beat Jimmy Butler and Miami for their fifth straight victory.

Malik Beasley scored a season-high 29 points off the bench and D'Angelo Russell added 20 for the Timberwolves, who launched a franchise-record 55 attempts from behind the arc and made 18.

Bam Adebayo led the Heat with 18 points, and Butler had a quiet 16 points, eight rebounds and five assists against his former team while booed often by the most engaged crowd of the season at Target Center.

Hawks 124, Spurs 106

In San Antonio, Trae Young scored 31 points and Atlanta beat San Antonio for its sixth straight victory.

Bogdan Bogdanovic had 18 points and John Collins added 15 in helping Atlanta to just its second road win this season. Clint Capela finished with 11 points and 13 rebounds.

Bryn Forbes had a season-high 23 points for San Antonio.

Hornets 106, Magic 99

In Orlando, Fla., Terry Rozier scored 27 points, and LaMelo Ball added 22 and Charlotte beat Orlando.

Kelly Oubre Jr. had 21 points and six rebounds of the bench. The Hornets won for the seventh time in eight games.

Mo Bamba had 18 points and 12 rebounds for Orlando.

Raptors 126, Grizzlies 113

In Memphis, Tenn., Gary Trent Jr. scored 17 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and Toronto rallied to beat Memphis.

Fred VanVleet scored 23 points, and Precious Achiuwa, Pascal Siakam and Scott Barnes added 17 each. Barnes had nine rebounds.

Ja Morant led Memphis with 23 points and nine assists.

Pelicans 127, Wizards 102

In New Orleans, Brandon Ingram scored 26 points, Jonas Valanciunas added 21 points and 11 rebounds, and New Orleans won for just the fourth time this season, beating Washington.

Josh Hart highlighted his 16-point performance with a running half-court bank shot as he was fouled in the final second of the third quarter.

Bradley Beal scored 23 points for Washington.

Kings 125, Trail Blazers 121

In Sacramento, Calif., De'Aaron Fox scored 21 points before being ejected in the fourth quarter, Marvin Bagley III made a clutch 3-pointer with 30 seconds remaining and Sacramento held off Portland.

Buddy Hield added 22 points in 30 minutes off the bench and Davion Mitchell added 16 points to give the Kings their first win under interim coach Alvin Gentry. Gentry took over after Luke Walton was fired Sunday.

Warriors 116, 76ers 96

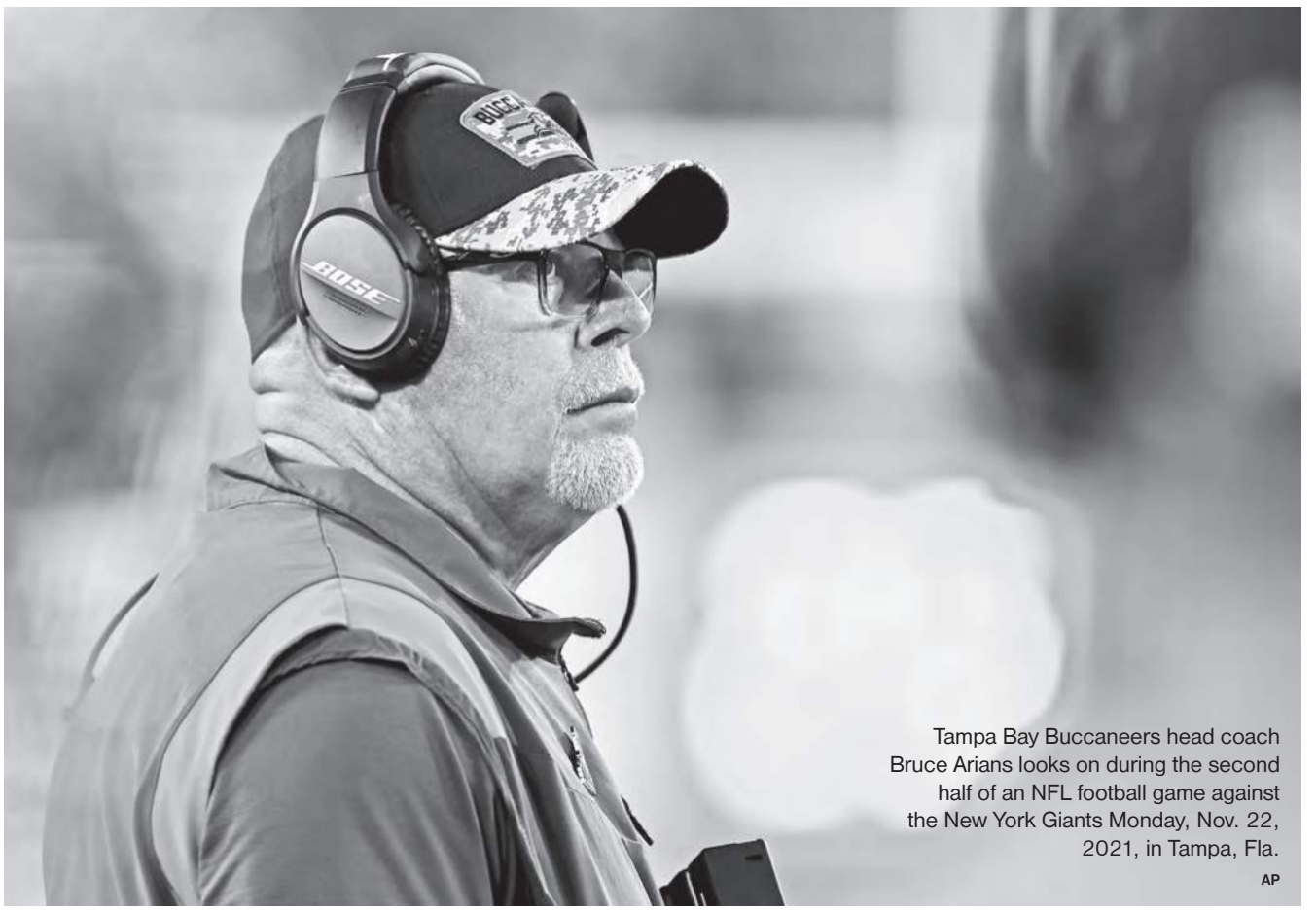
In San Francisco, Stephen Curry scored 25 points to younger brother Seth's 24 for Philadelphia, and NBA-leading Golden State won its fifth straight.

Curry shot 9 for 16 with six 3-pointers and added 10 assists to help the Warriors improve to 16-2.

Juan Toscano-Anderson came up big off the bench in the second half, scoring all of his 13 points after the break to go with six rebounds and six assists.

Thanksgiving week: A good time to look at NFL unfortunates

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Bruce Arians looks on during the second half of an NFL football game against the New York Giants Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, in Tampa, Fla.
AP

And the meek shall inherit the first draft pick.

Or not.

When the Jets visit the Texans on Sunday, there are no playoff implications—or even dreams. Both teams are 2-8, deservedly so.

Yet the winner might eliminate itself from competition for the top overall spot in next April's draft. Consider that Detroit and Jacksonville also are tail-enders with a solid shot at the NFL's worst record, and either the Jets or Texans will move ahead of the other, barring a tie.

Regardless, neither rookie coach, New York's Robert Saleh nor Houston's David Culley, is looking past the weak opposition this weekend. Because, of course, their clubs are equally feeble.

"We're 2-8. We played well enough to win, but we didn't play as well as we need to play moving forward to win," Culley says. "We're not looking down on anybody.

"It happens to be the Jets; the next team is the most important. You always want the win. You get the win, the thing is to get the win. That's all we're thinking about right now."

Houston actually got its second victory last week at AFC South leader Tennessee, which was plagued by injuries and turnovers.

The Jets have a win over the Titans and one over the Bengals, both playoff contenders. Their other showings have ranged from somewhat competitive to downright dismal.

Saleh looks at veteran quarterback Tyrod Taylor as a threat.

"Tyrod's back and, you know, when Tyrod's been the quarterback, they beat Jacksonville. I think they put 37 on them," Saleh notes. "They were 14-14 at halftime with Cleveland in Week 2 before he gets hurt. He comes back against Miami and struggled a little bit, but then they beat Tennessee, so he's clearly winning—and they're winning football games with him under center. He is a problem."

As if the Jets don't have enough of those. Ditto for the Texans.

The traditional Thanksgiving Day games have Chicago (3-7) at Detroit (0-9-1), followed by Las Vegas (5-5) at Dallas (7-3). The night contest is Buffalo (6-4) at New Orleans (5-5).

Off this week are Arizona (9-2, the NFL's best record) and Kansas City (7-4).

Los Angeles Rams (7-3) at Green Bay (8-3)

At the other end of the standings spectrum from the Jets and Texans, two of the contenders for the top spot in the NFC meet at Lambeau Field.

The Rams have lost three straight just once during Sean McVay's five-year coaching tenure. In Cooper Kupp they have the league's most productive receiver. Kupp has 85 catches for 1,141 yards to lead the NFL in both categories. His 10 touchdown receptions are tied for the lead with Tampa Bay's Mike Evans.

Aaron Rodgers is bothered by a toe injury, and the Packers are down to a third-string left tackle, Yosh Nijman, because of injuries. But the Packers join the Buccaneers as the only NFL teams that are undefeated at home this season. Green Bay has allowed just 44 points at Lambeau, the lowest total yielded through the first four Packers home games of a season since 1969.

Tennessee (8-3) at New England (7-4)

The Titans' impressive winning string ended in the awful weather last weekend, while the Patriots extended their run to five straight wins by routing Atlanta. New England has a profitable habit of meeting opponents who are undermanned, and that could be the case again in this one. No team has come close to the 82 players who have been in at least one contest this season for Tennessee.

Being on the road doesn't seem to bother Tennessee: The Titans are 4-1 away from Nashville in 2021 and 13-3 over their past 16 road games.

The Patriots are allowing a league-low 16.1 points per game. They have finished top 10 in fewest points allowed in each of the past nine seasons, the longest current streak.

Tampa Bay (7-3) at Indianapolis (6-5)

Anyone think Tom Brady is smiling at this matchup? Brady has tormented the Colts, going 15-4 with 38 touchdown passes, all with New England. He's second in the NFL with 3,177 yards passing and has a league-high 29 TD passes.

One remedy for Indy: Jonathan Taylor. He's the league's first 1,000-yard runner this season and has tied the NFL record with eight consecutive games of 100 yards from scrimmage and at least one touchdown. Last week at Buffalo, he stormed for 185 yards rushing, 204 yards from scrimmage and five TDs against the NFL's No. 1 defense.

The Colts also lead the NFL with 76 first-quarter points and 98 points off a league-high 25 takeaways.

Coincidentally, Bucs coach Bruce Arians won the first of his two NFL Coach of the Year Awards in 2012 as Colts interim coach following Chuck Pagano's cancer diagnosis.

Cleveland (6-5) at Baltimore (7-3)

As the Browns try to find their mojo, they head to the wrong place. The Ravens have dominated this series since the team moved from Cleveland, and Baltimore coach John Harbaugh is 22-4 against the Browns. Cleveland has dropped 10 of the past 13 against Baltimore, with two of the wins coming in overtime.

However, the Browns have replaced the Ravens with the league's most dangerous ground game. And standout right tackle Jack Conklin could be back after missing three games with an elbow injury.

Lamar Jackson should be OK to start after missing the win at Chicago with an illness. In his previous game, he was overwhelmed by Miami's blitzing. Myles Garrett leads the NFL with 13 sacks and the Cleveland club record is 14. The Browns lead the AFC with 29 sacks.

In a scheduling quirk, the AFC North rivals will meet twice in three weeks.

Pittsburgh (5-4-1) at Cincinnati (6-4)

Cincinnati is trying to sweep Pittsburgh for the first time since 2009, but the Steelers are 32-20 at Cincy. The Bengals have won the past two meetings, including a blowout victory two months ago. Before that the Steelers had won 11 straight going back to 2014.

Pittsburgh's Chris Boswell has never missed a field goal against the Bengals (23 for 23) and just one extra point (32 of 33). They'll need Ben Roethlisberger to continue his recently improved performances. The 39-year-old quarterback has a 104.3 passer rating over his past five games, throwing nine touchdowns against no interceptions.

The Bengals have five of their last seven games at home.

Los Angeles Chargers (6-4) at Denver (5-5)

Look for a concentration on the run game for both sides. LA's Austin Ekeler is the only player in the AFC with 500 or more rushing yards (573) and 400-plus receiving yards (405). He had four touchdowns last week in the win over Pittsburgh.

Denver's RB duo of Melvin Gordon II and rookie Javonte Williams have combined for 221 carries for 1,036 yards and six touchdowns. Gordon has with five touchdowns, Williams has a 5-yard rushing average.

Minnesota (5-5) at San Francisco (5-5)

Not quite a wild-card elimination game, but close enough for late November.

The Vikings have lost 10 of the past 11 road games in the series, with the only win in that span coming in 2007. They've won their past two matches this month and showed, at last, an ability to close. Also, the Vikings are the 18th team since the merger to lead each of their first 10 games by at least seven points.

Early leads will be important against a Niners squad that has come alive behind the work of dynamic receiver/running back Deebo Samuel and tight end George Kittle. The 49ers have opened the game with an 18-play TD drive and 20-play FG drive the past two weeks.

Philadelphia (5-6) at New York Giants (3-7)

The Giants fired offensive coordinator Jason Garrett this week; his unit, despite some talented skill players, has been abysmal. A sign, sort of, that emphasizes those struggles: tackle Andrew Thomas caught at 2-yard TD pass, becoming the Giants' first offensive lineman to catch a TD since 1960.

Philly has found the offensive firepower on the ground. The Eagles have 870 yards rushing in the past four games. They've rushed for 200-plus yards in consecutive games for the first time since 1978. Last week, Philadelphia rushed 50 times, its most since Oct. 5, 1997, against Washington. With Jordan Howard out, Miles Sanders and Boston Scott should get most of the work, along with versatile QB Jalen Hurts.

Seattle (3-7) at Washington (4-6), Monday night

Russell Wilson's return from finger surgery hasn't helped the Seahawks. He was 14 of 26 for 207 yards and was sacked four times in the loss to Arizona. Seattle is off to the franchise's worst 10-game record since 2009.

That said, Seattle's .711 winning percentage on Monday night is the best in the NFL. The Seahawks have won 11 of their past 14 Monday night games.

Since throwing two picks in a loss at Denver before the bye week, Washington's Taylor Heinicke has completed 77.8% of his passes for 462 yards and four TDs in back-to-back victories. Heinicke put up a career-best 141.3 QB rating in the win at Carolina.

Atlanta (4-6) at Jacksonville (2-8)

The Falcons have allowed 100 yards on the ground in five consecutive weeks and eight times in 10 games this season. Good news perhaps for Jags RB James Robinson.

The Falcons have won three straight in the series, slightly more than doubling Jacksonville on the scoreboard in those games. The most recent loss is part of the Jaguars' worst stretch in franchise history against the NFC. Jacksonville has lost 14 consecutive games, 0-3 this season, and is 7-44 in its past 51 games versus the NFC.

Atlanta's gone 130-plus minutes and 26 offensive possessions without a touchdown, going consecutive games without a TD for the first time since 1987.

Carolina (5-6) at Miami (4-7)

Another team struggling to stop the run is Miami, which has won three straight anyway. Good news for Panthers Christian McCaffrey, who when healthy is as effective as any NFL running back. Since 2018, McCaffrey has averaged 134.1 yards from scrimmage per game, the most in the NFL. His 11 career 100-yard receiving games are the most by any NFL running back in history, too.

Flags could fly here. Carolina is the NFL's most-penalized team through 11 weeks, flagged 81 times. The Dolphins have 75 penalties, one more than in all of 2020.

Little League hopes to start new season in 1st quarter

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Little League Baseball Association is now setting its sights to resuming American's favorite pastime sometime in the first quarter of 2022 after competition had been shelved the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We called it off last year because of the virus. Earlier this year we also didn't have it because there was still no vaccination for kids. There is now vaccination for kids, so we now have a recommendation from Williamsport that by next year we should've a season," said SLLBA president Mike Borja.

He also took the opportunity to squash rumors that there was a problem with the local Little League charter and that's why they were unable to start a season in June this year. In a meeting last May, Borja and the SLLBA board announced that they will start games in the Majors division in June 15 with the Braves, Blue Jays, Comets, Marlins, and Twins competing.

"The recommendation from Little League headquarters in Williamsport all along is not to have any Little League season for the safety of the kids. Look at what happened to the Little League World Series, there was no international team," said Borja

He said the CNMI's location in the middle of the Pacific between Asia and the U.S. mainland also complicated the resumption of the 2021 season of the Little League.

"Specially us we are situated in the Asia Pacific so all the travel ban and all these pandemic just popped up everywhere. That's one thing why we decided to just call off the Little League 2020-2021 season. By December we will be holding a meeting and part of the agenda is the start of the 2022 Little League."

Borja added that by the first quarter of 2022, the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field will be up and running again thanks to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The field will be in its primetime condition by that time and not only ready for Little League but also the Mini Games in June," he said, alluding to the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games the CNMI will be hosting for the first time from June 17 to 25, 2022.

Borja also is thanking his lucky stars that they aborted the Little League season this year what with the current surge in local COVID-19 positive cases.

"There's a community outbreak right now but at least we have vaccination for the kids now," he said.

The Saipan Little League Baseball Association is looking at resuming play early next year after the COVID-19 pandemic scrapped its 2020 and 2021 seasons. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	14	5	.737	—
New York	10	8	.556	3½
Boston	10	9	.526	4
Philadelphia	10	9	.526	4
Toronto	9	10	.474	5

Southeast Division

Miami	12	7	.632	—
Washington	11	7	.611	½
Charlotte	12	8	.600	½
Atlanta	10	9	.526	2
Orlando	4	15	.211	8

Central Division

Chicago	12	7	.632	—
Milwaukee	11	8	.579	1
Cleveland	9	10	.474	3
Indiana	8	12	.400	4½
Detroit	4	14	.222	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	10	7	.588	—
Memphis	9	9	.500	1½
San Antonio	4	13	.235	6
New Orleans	4	16	.200	7½
Houston	2	16	.111	8½

Northwest Division

Utah	12	6	.667	—
Portland	10	9	.526	2½
Denver	9	9	.500	3
Minnesota	9	9	.500	3
Oklahoma City	6	12	.333	6

Pacific Division

Golden State	16	2	.889	—
Phoenix	15	3	.833	1
L.A. Clippers	10	8	.556	6
L.A. Lakers	10	10	.500	7
Sacramento	7	12	.368	9½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAN

From Page 24

windy that she had to wear gloves during the race.

"I was pretty tired going into it because it was a long season of cross country and Thanksgiving was coming up so that's all I was looking forward to," she said.

Coming in second to Tan was Audrey Christley in 22.23, while completing the Top 3 among the women was Anika Snyder. The former ran along the Saipan Beach Road Pathway, while the latter completed her course in Scotland.

Tang was surprised that he again finished first among the men, completing the 5K virtual race in 21.44 while running from the American Memorial Park to the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park last Nov. 20.

"It feels great as I wasn't expecting to win two in a row!"

He hopes to top an actual face-to-face race soon and not to be known as a runner who only tops virtual ones.

"I prefer face-to-face running because there's more interaction and more fun compared to virtual. It's boring and lonely. But since there's COVID-19 in the community I just have run by myself for now. I do hope the community spread slows down," said the 15-year-old student from Marianas High School.

Sildrey Velorio finished runner-up in 23.50 while running on Saipan with Erico Castro placed third in 23:58 tackling the race in San Diego, California. A total of 19 took part in the Run Saipan's 21.10 Virtual 5K, the club's second consecutive virtual race.

Last October, Run Saipan scrapped its 5K Dash & Splash at Lao Lao Bay due to a recent surge in local COVID-19 cases.

4 PLAYERS

From Page 24

quest to allow Tinian players to take part in the tryouts. He also extended his gratitude to Aldan and the Tinian Legislative Delegation for paying for the room accommodations and car rental for the four Tinian players training on Saipan. He also acknowledged the help of Tinian Baseball Association chair Andrew Macaranas.

He assured that the two Sablans, Lizama, and Cepeda are the cream of the crop when it comes to baseball on Tinian and all came up from the island's Little League program.

CHUNG

From Page 24

student from Saipan International School.

Irin, who started playing tennis at Aces Tennis Academy when she was 9, is dedicating the women's 4.0 singles title primarily to herself.

"I am dedicating this championship to myself since I worked hard to win my tennis matches. I would like to thank coach Jeff Race and coach Tommy Choi for helping me improve my tennis and my family for all the support. I also appreciate the people who practice tennis with me for making tennis such an enjoyable sport," she said.

Meanwhile, Serin got a payback of sorts when she beat boys 16-and-under winner Hye Jin Eliott in the women's open singles championship, 0-6, 6-4, 10-7. Serin lost to Eliott in the finals of the boys age group only a week prior.

"Yes, I definitely was worried after being blanked in the opening set. I just told myself to play more aggressive. I think I was less nervous in the second set so I was able to play better," she said when asked how she overcame her struggles in the first set.

Serin also congratulated her sister for winning the women's 4.0 singles. "It's very neat. I'm glad she also won."

From left, tournament director Lydia Tan, women's open singles runner-up Hye Jin Elliot, women's open singles champion Serin Chung, and Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Carline Sablan during the awards banquet for the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

She dedicated her women's open singles win in the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic to their parents, Jong Bum Chung and Rie Nakai.

In the women's singles 3.0, Gillan Mae Lucero took the tiara after beating Yuko Kamada, 6-1, 6-1. Kamada got some measure of revenge when she teamed up with Harumi Suzuki in ruling the women's 4.0 doubles after beating Lucero and Marivic Dunlop, 1-6, 6-2, 20-18 in a marathon finals.

In the women's 3.0 doubles, Ami Miyawaki and Yoshiko Song prevailed in their championship tiff against Karen Klesson and Thu Tran, 6-2, 6-1.

Kang, Feng top Mini Games golf fundraiser

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Suns hold off Cavaliers 120-115 for 14th straight victory PAGE 21

4 players from Tinian join tryouts

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Baseball League's tryouts for the CNMI National Baseball Team for next year's Pacific Mini Games has truly gone Marianas-wide. This, after Tinian players Dustin Sablan, Peter Cepeda, Bradley Lizama, and Bing Sablan joined the nearly 60 players trying out for the team last week.

SBL president Jay Santos said national baseball team coaches Deron Flores and Gary Cruz flew to Tinian a couple of weeks back to do an evaluation of Tinian hopefuls and out of the 10, Dustin and Bing Sablan, Cepeda, and Lizama were invited to attend the training on Saipan.

"Jose Kiyoshi reached out to us and we coordinated with him. When we identified the four players I sent a message to Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan and fortunately for the four players they were able to assist them in joining the other players trying out here on Saipan. We like the fact that everybody was understanding of the rules and we also like the fact that the four players understand that it was necessary for them to try out so there's an equal playing field for everybody no matter what island they live on," he said.

From left, Tinian baseball players Esteban K. Sablan, Dustin K. Sablan, Bradley P. Lizama, and Peter C. Cepeda are currently trying for the CNMI National Baseball Team for next year's Pacific Mini Games on Saipan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kiyoshi is the president of the Tinian Athletics Sports Association.

The SBL president said the invitation of the four players from Tinian proves that the tryouts are truly CNMI-wide.

"This is also a way for SBL to impress on everyone that whether you're from Pagan, Alamagan, Tinian, or Rota everybody should've an opportunity to try out for the team. Big thank you to Mr. Jose Kiyoshi for reaching out to me. To mayor Aldan for being very accommodating. The coaches and the SBL board are very pleased that four players came out from Tinian," he said.

Kiyoshi, for his part, thanked Santos, the national baseball team coaching staff, and the Northern Mariana Sports Association for accepting Tinian's last-minute re-

See 4 PLAYERS on Page 23

Chung sisters win in women's singles

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Chung sisters—Irin and Serin—won the women's 4.0 singles and women's open singles championships in the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Irin topped the women's 4.0 singles after defeating Hoo Wang, 4-6, 6-2, 10-2, in what proved to be the finals as the third player of the round-robin draw, Savita Sikkel, pulled out on account of an injury.

"I was able to win my match against Hoo Wang even though I lost my first set because I played more aggressive and took more risks in the second set and super tiebreak," said the 13-year-old

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From left, tournament director Lydia Tan, women's 4.0 singles runner-up Hoo Wang, women's 4.0 singles champion Irin Chung, and Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Carline Sablan during the awards banquet for the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan, Tang take virtual 5K for November

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Run Saipan's 21.10 Virtual 5K for November might as well be Groundhog Day as results mimicked the October race with the same protagonists topping the men's and women's categories.

Tania Tan posted the fastest time at 20.49 while running Fordham University's last cross country meet of the season at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, New York.

"I didn't beat my time in October and ran 9 seconds slower actually. The course is super hilly and over 200 feet of elevation gain over 5 kilometers," said the 20-year-old junior.

Tan said the conditions were especially cold and

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